Author's response to reviews

Title: Can we trust measures of healthcare utilisation from household surveys?

Authors:

Evelyn K Ansah (Ansahekdr@yahoo.co.uk)
Timothy Powell-Jackson (Timothy.Powell-Jackson@lshtm.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
4th April 2013

Dear Editor,

Re: Can we trust measures of healthcare utilization from household surveys?

We are writing in response to some changes requested by BMC Public Health before proceeding with peer review. Please find our responses outlined below.

1. In the Methods section, please confirm if the databases used for this study were publicly available of if you obtained permission to use them; in this case, please provide the full name of the institution or organization that granted the permission.

The data are from a trial carried out by Dr. Evelyn Ansah, the Principal Investigator for the study. It was carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements of her PhD. Her institutional base was, and still is the Ghana Health Service. The data are not yet publicly available. Results of the main trial have been published in PLoS Medicine (reference 8 in the manuscript). This point has been clarified in the text on page 5.

2. Acknowledgements. We strongly encourage you to include an ‘Acknowledgements’ section between the Authors’ contributions section and Reference list. Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study. Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements. Please list the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

We have added an Acknowledgements section on page 14 of the manuscript. We have received the permission of Christopher Whitty who we thank for reviewing an earlier draft of the manuscript. We have also specified the source of funding and the role of the funder in the study.

3. Figures. Please upload the figure legends separately as a list in the main manuscript after References and remove them from the images in the file Figures.

This has been done.

We have reviewed the manuscript in terms of whether it conforms to the journal style of BMC Public Health and made some minor changes to the title of the first section (now Background
instead of Introduction) and the format of the references (now full list of names instead of et al). If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Powell-Jackson and Evelyn Ansah