Author's response to reviews

Title: Predictors of loss to follow-up before HIV treatment initiation in Northwest Ethiopia: a case control study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam

We are pleased to submit our manuscript, titled “Predictors of loss to follow-up before HIV treatment initiation in Northwest Ethiopia”, for consideration of publication in the Public Health section of BioMed Central. This study is a case control study conducted on HIV patients newly enrolled in pre-antiretroviral treatment care between September 11, 2008 and May 8, 2011. Lost to follow-up patients were taken as cases while those who were in care were taken as controls. We found that the risk of pre-treatment lost to follow-up progressively increased with the increased level of CD4 cell count. Being male, unmarried and with undocumented next appointment date were independent predictors of pre-treatment lost to follow-up. These findings highlight the importance of giving considerable attention to pre-treatment patients’ care from the time they receive HIV positive result.

We chose this journal because it is an open access and peer-reviewed journal that gives special focus on the social determinant of health and policies. The primary author also had practical experience in publishing manuscripts in the “Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation” section of this journal.

Regarding the authors, Ismael Ahmed (RN, MPH) had primary responsibility in the process of conceptualization and research design, data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and manuscript drafting and revision. Salem T. Gugsa (MPH) and Seblewengel Lemma (MPH) assisted in the conceptualization and design of the study, development of data collection instruments, interpretation of the results, and preparation of the manuscript. Meaza Demissie (MD, MPH, PhD) participated in the preparation of the manuscript and revised it critically for important intellectual content. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

This paper has not been published or accepted for publication. It is not under consideration by any other journal.

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Sincerely,

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