Author's response to reviews

Title: Pharmacy refill adherence outperforms self-reported methods in predicting HIV therapy outcome in resource-limited settings

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Author's response to reviews: see over
**Author's response to Editor**

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**Version:** 6 **Date:** 24th September 2014

**RESPONSES TO EDITOR’S COMMENTS**

Dear Editor:

We are pleased to resubmit for publication the revised version of MS: 4761922921262398 “Pharmacy refill adherence outperforms self-reported methods in predicting HIV therapy outcome in resource-limited settings”. We would like to thank the editor for the constructive review and helpful comments on this manuscript. We have addressed each concern as outlined below, and highlighted the changes in the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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RESPONSES TO EDITOR’S COMMENTS

Editor's Comments:

1.) Ethics

Please note that all submissions to BMC Public Health must comply with our editorial policies. In particular, please ensure that your manuscript contains any required statements regarding ethical approval and consent from patients/participants; adheres to any relevant standards of reporting with a completed checklist where appropriate; and contains an Availability of Supporting Data section explaining how the supporting data is available to researchers, including the repository and accession number where appropriate. Manuscripts which do not adhere to our editorial policies may experience delays or be rejected. Further information about our editorial policies can be found at the following links:

Ethical approval and consent: http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#Ethics

Standards of reporting: http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#StandardsofReporting

Data availability: http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#DataandMaterialRelease.

2.) Consent statement:

Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants or, where participants are children, a parent or guardian.

3.) Acknowledgements

By way of a section “Acknowledgements”, please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article 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 the source(s) of funding for each author, and for the manuscript preparation. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in 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. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study. If a language editor has made significant revision of the manuscript, we recommend that you acknowledge the editor by name, where possible.
The role of a scientific (medical) writer must be included in the acknowledgements section, including their source(s) of funding. We suggest wording such as 'We thank Jane Doe who provided medical writing services on behalf of XYZ Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'

Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section.

4.) Additional files are for supplementary information and are uploaded separately. Presently, 6 additional files are listed in the manuscript but only 2 have been separately uploaded. Please upload all the additional files separately, or re-label some of them as tables.

**RESPONSE: We followed the advice of the Editor with regard to the recommended changes in the document, a summary of which can be found below**

**Comment 1 and 2**

**Page 8 line 175 -180 we included a section on ethical issues under the methods section”**

The section has a statement regarding both ethics and informed consent as follows.

**Ethical issue**

Issues pertaining to patient confidentiality, benefits and risks to participating patients, justice, rights and respect that the patients deserve were addressed by ethical clearance and informed consent. The study was approved by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Research Ethics Committee. Only patients who were willing to participate in the study and who signed an informed consent were recruited into this study. Patient codes were used to de-link the patient data in databases. Patients did not receive any payments to motivate them to participate in the study.
Comment 3

We have acknowledged the key contributor of the manuscript and have added information on the fact that the other 6 co-authors were funded by their respective institutions.

At page 23: line 544-545 we added the following text under the acknowledgment section

FM, SA, JV, RJC, EF and EVW were funded by their respective institutions.

At page 22 line 519 – 524 we described authors’ contribution to the manuscript preparation under the respective section of the manuscript.

Comment 4

We have separately uploaded all six additional files.

The title and description of additional material are at page 29-31.