Author's response to reviews

Title: Maternal near-miss and mortality in Sayaboury Province, Lao PDR.

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor and expert reviewers:

Thank you very much for your second reviewing our manuscript entitled ‘Maternal near-miss and mortality in Sayaboury Province, Lao PDR’. We have already answered your comments and suggestions with some modification of manuscript according to your suggestions. The changes in the text have been noted in BLUE highlight. Our responses to individual reviewers are attached following this letter. On behalf of all authors, we are truly grateful for your kind re-consideration our update manuscript.

Yours sincerely,
Malinee Laopaiboon
Reviewer: Pakhee Aggarwal

Reviewer's report:
Thank you for modifying the methodology to make it more descriptive. It has the potential to be a great study.

Author response:
Many thanks for your kind suggestions.

Just few small reservations:
1. What about the month of January? Were there any near misses or mortalities in that month that went unaccounted for, i.e. amongst ectopic pregnancies, abortions etc?

Author response:
In January 2011 there were two women (whose LMP were during August-December 2010) admitted to the district hospitals because of severe vaginal bleeding. These two women were included in our study. None of them was MNM.

2. ‘During February – November 2011, at communities information of pregnancy outcomes, and clinical criteria for the assessment of organ system dysfunctions, such as respiratory rate of more than 40 or less than 6 bpm, etc. were’ What is less then 6 bpm referring to?

Author response:
It is severe bradypnea (respiratory rate < 6 breaths per minute). We have revised the sentence on page 7, line 22-23 to be

... such as severe tachypnea (respiratory rate > 40 breaths per minute) or severe bradypnea (respiratory rate<6 breaths per minute), etc.

3. There should be a table or sample CRF appended to the article to describe the exact criteria that were being looked for. This is the backbone of the study data and should be elaborated in more detail.

Author response:
Thanks for your suggestion and we have put table 1 to for presenting the modified WHO criteria used in the study.

4. Pg10-11 – sentence follow through?

Author response:
Revision made, please consider on page 10-11.
Reviewer: Eliana Amaral

Reviewer's report:  
Suggestions for improvement mostly taken by authors.

Author response:  
Many thanks for your kind suggestions.