Author's response to reviews

Title: Palliative care making a difference in rural Uganda, Kenya and Malawi: three rapid evaluation field studies

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Gabriella,

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide clarification on this final point regarding Ethical Permission to carry out the evaluation. Please find our response:

This study was designed and carried out as a service evaluation. We thus, in line with UK protocol regarding service evaluations, did not seek formal ethics approval from a national Ethics Committee.

We did request permission to carry out the Service Evaluations from each of the three programmes. Two of these programmes had Charity Status, and one programme was delivered by a Christian Health Association of Kenya Hospital. We sought permission from the Senior Manager and team of the two Charities. For Maua Hospital we met with the Hospital Board and requested permission from the Board.

As part of the evaluation, each participant read a comprehensive information sheet, and gave signed consent for quotations and photographs to be used in publications and publicity.

We also apologise for a mistake that we made in the text when we wrote, “Permission was granted to carry out these detailed evaluations from the relevant hospital boards”.

We have corrected this to: “Permission was granted to carry out these detailed evaluations from the relevant hospital board, and the Senior Management of the Charities responsible for delivering the palliative care programmes”. 
Thank you again for your time and consideration. We do hope that this clarifies the reviewers’ final queries.

Yours sincerely

Liz Grant