Author's response to reviews

Title: Informed Consent Practices for Surgical Care at University Teaching Hospitals; a case in a low resource setting

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Author's response to reviews:

May 5, 2014
The Editor,
BMC Medical Ethics
Dear Sir/ Madam
Re: Response to comments informed consent manuscript
MS: 1644758731110436
Informed Consent Practices for Surgical Care at University Teaching Hospitals; a case in a low resource setting
Joseph Ochieng, Charles Ibingira, William Buwembo, Ian Munabi, Harun Kiryowa, David Kitara, Paul Bukuluki, Gabriel Nzarubara and Erisa Mwaka

Revisions:

Comment 1: -Please clarify why the situation is bad, what kind of undergraduate and postgraduate education of doctors exists regarding informed consent.
Response: We report the situation that was observed based on responses from participants. Because the situation may not be so pleasant, that is why we need this study to form an evidence base for appropriate action.

There is training though practice may be different to what is taught. Our study was intended to hight the magnitude of the problem and initiate a basis for change

The problem has been sighted in the media over time as indicated in the following links;
Comment 2: -Please clarify whether there is a legal obligation for informed consent and whether there is a protocol for obtaining consent.
Response: This is the reason we conducted the study, document practices and use this as a platform for improved practice.

Obtaining informed consent is a legal requirement and that is why all hospitals have the written admission form signed by every inpatient on admission. However, these admission forms are very brief and none specific hence left wanting. In addition, beyond this admission form, no other forms exist for use to further the informed consent process.

The reason we conducted this study was partly to highlight the magnitude of the problem through evidence-based research in order to initiate a process of reforms.

Comment 3: -Please write an explanation in your discussion on what should be done with regard to the training of physicians who would be dealing with informed consent.
Response: A section has been added at the end of the discussion which reads;

The magnitude of this problem thus calls for a more comprehensive approach to obtaining informed consent by development of an informed consent template with adequate information and room for modification to facilitate the informed consent process on one hand while refresher and continuing education with focus on medical ethics can be made mandatory for all medical practitioners.

Comment 4: -Please could you also provide a copy of your questionnaire as an additional file and provide a paragraph in your methods explaining questionnaire validation.
Response: This qualitative study employed a semi-structured interview approach. The questions used in the questionnaire for this study were picked from a questionnaire used in two previously published studies. The publications
have been references in this manuscript as;


17. Ochieng J: Value and Importance of Informed Consent to Researchers at Makerere University. Annals of Tropical Medicine and Public Health Jan-Feb 2012 Vol 5 Issue 1

Additionally, a copy of the questionnaire has been attached

Comment 5: - In addition grammatical errors were found in your manuscript so we recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service. For authors who wish to have the language in their manuscript edited by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise, BioMed Central recommends Edanz (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1). BioMed Central has negotiated a 10% discount to the fee charged to BioMed Central authors by Edanz. Use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of acceptance for publication. For more information, see our FAQ on language editing services at http://www.biomedcentral.com/authors/authorfaq/editing.

Response: This has been addressed

Sincerely,
Dr. Joseph Ochieng