Author's response to reviews

Title: Voices from the frontline: Counsellors' perspectives on TB/HIV collaborative activities in the Northwest Region, Cameroon.

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Version: 3 Date: 4 October 2011

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POINT BY POINT DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES MADE

1. Research question
   A brief introduction of the research topic is presented in the “Background section” of the manuscript. The research question and the justification for conducting the study have been explicitly stated (Page 6, lines 1-9). Information is also provided how the findings of the study will improve the existing knowledge base regarding TB and HIV collaborative activities, service delivery and public health (Page 6, lines 9-11).

2. The study design
   Qualitative research interview was chosen as the most appropriate method for data collection. The justifications for using this method are also provided (Page 8, lines 21-23; Page 9, lines 1-5).

3. Transparency of procedures
   i. The method of sampling for the study, details of how the recruitment process of the participants were conducted, and how the data collection process was conducted during the study have been clearly stated (Page 9, paragraphs 2 and 3; Page 10, paragraphs 1 and 2).
   ii. The dual roles of the researcher both as a clinician and researcher and the implications are discussed (Page 11, lines 11-16; Page 29, lines 8-12).
   iii. Ethical considerations surrounding the study are discussed on page 12 (lines 1-7).

4. Soundness of interpretive approach
   i. A description of the analytical approach (Content Analysis) and the justification for using the approach are provided (Page 10 lines, 13-16).
   ii. Details of how the data was interpreted including description of how the codes, categories and later themes were derived from the data are also provided (Page 10, lines 16-22; Page 11, lines 1-6). Examples of the analytical process are
provided in Figures 1 and 2. Finally, relevant quotations from the transcripts are also used to support the interpretations from the data.

iii. Measures to ensure trustworthiness/reliability of the data and findings are discussed under the sub-section “Trustworthiness of the study” (Page 11, paragraph 2).

iv. In the discussion section, the findings are presented in relation to existing knowledge regarding the research question and how they can contribute to improve this dearth of knowledge. Strengths and limitations of the study are also discussed in the sub-section “Methodological considerations” (Page 28, paragraph 2; Page 29, paragraph 1).