Author's response to reviews

Title: Conceptual models for Mental Distress among HIV infected and uninfected: A contribution to clinical practice and research in primary-health-care centers in Zambia

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

Ref: Responses to Reviewer’s comments

Find below our responses to the reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer: Earlise C Ward
Reviewer’s report:
Major Compulsory Revisions
1) I suggest the authors place the added details about data analysis in the actual paper. Basically, take the information provided in the response letter and putting it in the data analysis section of the paper, because it provides the needed detail about the data analysis process.

Response:
The reviewer’s comments are duly noted and we have incorporated the changes in the manuscript on page 9 and 10 under the data analysis sub-heading. The text is in red font.

Reviewer’s comment
2) The authors indicated my request to provide information about health perceptions in Zambia was too general and consequently chose not to provide such information. I still believe providing a brief overview about perceptions on mental illness / mental health and use of mental health services in Zambia will provide readers with a better understanding of such issues in Zambia as well as provide a stronger rational for the current study. In addition, there will be people reading this article who have very little knowledge about mental health in Zambia, so providing such contextual information will have serve to educate the reader.

Response:
The reviewer’s comments have been taken into consideration. As indicated previously a brief write-up on perception of mental illness and utilization of mental health services is a big challenge because of its wide nature. However it is our sincere hope that inclusion of the two paragraphs on page 3 and 4 under the background subheading will suffice. The font is in red.

Yours sincerely,

Peter J. Chipimo BSC HB, MBChB, M.Phil