Author’s response to reviews

Title: HIV Health Service Delivery in Vietnam from the Viewpoint of the Continuum of Prevention and Care

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Dear Editorial Team, BMC Health Services Research,

We would appreciate it if you could consider publishing our manuscript entitled “HIV Health Service Delivery in Vietnam from the Viewpoint of the Continuum of Prevention and Care” as a ‘research article’. All co-authors have reviewed and approved the contents of the manuscript. No conflict of interest has been declared with the exception of a co-author (Dr Krishna C Poudel) who received remuneration from WHO Vietnam to prepare a preliminary draft on the overview of HIV health services in Vietnam.

A functional HIV service delivery system is critical to maximize the effectiveness of various HIV related services to achieve and sustain universal access and to maximize preventive benefits of antiretroviral treatment (ART) in line with the global initiative ‘Treatment 2.0’. However, issues concerning the service delivery system are often addressed in fragmentation according to each service or bilateral linkage.

This paper reviewed HIV health service delivery in Vietnam with particular reference to service utilization, availability and connectedness across different related services and levels of the health system. The analytical framework of continuum of prevention and care (COPC) was instrumental in identifying system-related strengths and constraints that are common across multiple elements of HIV services. We believe similar reviews should be useful for other low- and middle-income countries in the changing context from rapid service expansion to service delivery optimization in line with the global Treatment 2.0 initiative.

As per the advice of the editor of the BMC Public Health, we have made the following modifications to the manuscript:
(1) In the abstract, the description on the methods has been separated from the background
(2) In the main text, the Methods section has been re-allocated before the Discussion section.

We sincerely hope the findings of our research will be maximized by academia as well as non-academia particularly program managers and implementers through the open-access feature of the BMC Health Services Research.

While this review focused on HIV health service delivery, the COPC framework could also serve to systematically assess the interfaces between HIV and other health service delivery systems in the context of the global health agenda shifting from disease control programs to health systems strengthening. These interfaces include mechanisms for coordinating and linking different health services, cross-fertilization of management of various chronic illnesses, patient referral systems, and community mobilization and outreach.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
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