Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of Providers' Referral Decisions in Rural Burkina Faso: A Retrospective Analysis of Medical Registry Records

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We would like to submit our manuscript (Assessment of Providers’ Referral Decisions in Rural Burkina Faso: A Retrospective Analysis of Medical Registry Records) to your journal. Through referrals, primary care facilities help people access higher levels of care, save lives and give prompt answer to emergency situations. Assessing and understanding providers’ referral decision-making process become critical. However, despite the obvious importance of referral appropriateness assessment, in sub-Saharan Africa, to our knowledge, no published study has assessed the correctness and appropriateness of primary care providers’ referral decisions. Therefore, this study tried to assess the correctness and appropriateness of the health center providers’ decisions regarding referral in Burkina Faso. The findings may help to fill this gap in the literature and provide evidence as to what actions could be undertaken to improve the performance of providers and the referral system.

This main text of this manuscript includes 3,052 words. All authors have participated in the conception and design, or acquisition of data, or data analysis and interpretation, or drafting the article, or revising it critically for important intellectual content. We have seen and approved the final version. We believe that the manuscript represents an honest work. We also declare that we have no conflicts of interest in connection with this paper.

I, as the corresponding author, take full responsibility for the contents of the paper. I had full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Sincerely,

Nicole Huang, PhD