Author's response to reviews

Title: Health information technology capacity at federally qualified health centers: a mechanism for improving quality of care

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Dear Editor:

It is my pleasure to submit to you our paper entitled “Health information technology capacity at federally qualified health centers: a mechanism for improving quality of care.” The paper was co-authored with colleagues from University of Alabama and Southern Illinois University. The paper examined the association between health information technology capacity at federally qualified health centers and quality of care, measured by receipt of discharge summary, frequency of patients receiving reminders/notifications for preventive care/follow-up care, and timely appointment for specialty care. Data used for your study is openly available at http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Surveys.aspx.

Leveraging HIT to improve health service delivery, especially at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) is important to assessing their capacity to absorb the expected increase in demand whilst improving quality of care. The essential role of health centers in providing health care to millions of Americans underscore the need for technologies and strategies that promotes improved access to quality care. Our study contributes to the literature by examining the promise of HIT, specifically the capacity of HIT at FQHCs as a mechanism to improve process of care, and ultimately clinical outcomes.

We believe the readership of “BMC Health Services Research” will find our methodology and findings to be informative.

The authors declare that they have no competing interests. If further information or materials are required, please contact me through the following address:

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Thank you in advance for considering our manuscript.

We look forward to your assessment of our work.

Sincerely,

Jemima A. Frimpong