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

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the point of concern raised by the Associate Editor. Our response to the comment appears in italic and presents a point-by-point description of changes made to the paper. We hope our response effectively clarifies the point of concern.

If further information or materials are required, please contact me through the following address:

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Thank you in advance for the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript.

We look forward to your assessment of the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Jemima A. Frimpong
Response to comment from Associate Editor

The authors refer on page 4/5 to the fact that the survey data are weighted by number of patients, number of sites, region and urbanicity. Yet their analyses indicate that they using at least region and urbanicity as adjusting factors in Table 4. It seems a bit strange to report adjusted values in that table based upon factors that were used to generate the values of the initial data used for analyses.

To explain the inclusion of Region and Urbanity as adjusting factors in the analysis, the following clarifying sentences and supporting references have been added to paragraph two of the “statistical analysis” section of the paper: “In different regions there is variability between how FQHCs may communicate/organize with other hospitals/communities in the area. In order to control for these differences we adjusted for Region and Urbanicity. Controlling for area-wide variability in surveys with complex design is a common approach.[27, 28]”

To further clarify the analytical approach, we’ve made changes to paragraph one of the “Statistical analysis” section of the paper. The last two sentences of the paragraph now reads as: “In the analysis, we are interested in making comparisons of predicted outcomes after controlling for covariate distributions. We therefore used multivariable logistic regressions, reporting unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios, to examine whether FQHCs HIT capacity is associated with the outcome measures.” (pg. 6)

We’ve also made the following change to the last sentence of the “Data” section of the paper: “Sampling weights were generated for the data based on number of patients, number of sites, region, and urbanicity in order to more precisely reflect the universe of community health centers.” (pg. 4/5)