Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Resource utilization pattern and cost of tuberculosis treatment from the provider and patient perspective in the state of Penang, Malaysia

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**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
Greetings

Please find enclosed herewith, a research article entitled “Resource utilization pattern and cost of tuberculosis treatment from the provider and patient perspective in the state of Penang, Malaysia” for re-evaluation and possible publication in *BMC Health Services Research*.

The knowledge of TB-related utilizations using cost estimates and health services utilization allows policy-makers to develop a model of service utilization and cost of care for the given population. To-date only few studies (perhaps only one study from USA, published in 1999) had explained the resource utilization pattern in TB patients. Moreover, only few studies, with very high heterogeneity in results, had reported cost of TB treatment both from the provider and patient perspective. Based on the economic findings, gaps in existing literature and methodological concerns in comparing various cost studies, we described the TB-related resource utilization and cost of TB treatment from the provider and patient perspective. We strongly believe that this article will be of interest for the policymakers and NTP managers/staff.

**Point by point answer to the comments**

We are extremely thankful to the editors of BMC Public Health for spending their valuable time in reading this article. We are also thankful that editors are agreed to transfer our article to BMC Health Services Research.

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<tr>
<th><strong>Editorial comments</strong></th>
<th><strong>Authors reply</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>We have now looked over your manuscript and we feel that it is out of scope for the journal. However, we do feel that the manuscript may be suited for another of our journals, BMC Health Services Research</td>
<td>We are agreed to submit our article to BMC Health Services Research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please provide a summary of points contained in the questionnaire used for the interviews.</td>
<td>Summary of questions have been provided on page number 7, paragraph number 3, line number 5-9. Authors are agreed to provide Malay version of the questionnaire if deemed necessary by the Editors of BMC Health Services Research.</td>
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Sincerely,

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