Author’s response to reviews

Title: Outputs, cost and efficiency of public sector centres for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV in Andhra Pradesh, India

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Dear BMC Editors,

Thank you for inviting revision of this manuscript. The revised manuscript is submitted. We appreciate the reviewers’ comments. Our response to these comments:

Reviewer 1

As suggested, we have now provided more description of the new integrated counselling and testing centres (page 16 last paragraph going on to page 17) and have also added a reference for this (number 14 in revised manuscript). This, along with additional use of our findings suggested in the last paragraph on page 17, should help further in relating our findings to the policy and programme implications.

We are unable to present cost-effectiveness analysis in this paper as this will require additional data. Since we are not presenting cost-effectiveness data/analysis, direct comparison with studies from other parts of the world on PMTCT cost-effectiveness does not seem indicated in this paper. This paper provides cost-efficiency findings for PMTCT in Andhra Pradesh, as we have done previously for VCT, sex worker programmes and STI clinics, which by itself offer useful practical information for further programme planning.

Reviewer 2

As suggested, the range of functions available in Microsoft Excel which we explored for the regression analysis, and the basis for selecting the relations for
presentation in this paper, are now mentioned on page 10.

Additionally, we have updated some references in the revised manuscript.

We thank BMC for considering our paper for publication. We would be pleased to respond promptly if any further input were needed from us to arrive at a rapid decision on this paper.

Kind regards,

Lalit Dandona

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