Author's response to reviews

Title: Economic burden of diabetes mellitus in the WHO African Region

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response To Reviewer’s Report

**TITLE:** Economic burden of diabetes mellitus in the WHO African region

**Reviewer 1: Peter EH Schwarz**

Major compulsory revisions:

Reviewer: 1. The price of insulin was overestimated tenfold in this study. The authors must be asked to recalculate their data.

Response: The prices of insulin reported in WHO/AFRO [12] were transformed in international dollars using purchasing power parity for the source countries and then averages were obtained for the three groups of countries. That data was used to re-estimate the cost of insulin.

Reviewer: …the abbreviation should be defined at first use, after it, should only abbreviations be used not full names. Response: This has been done.

Minor suggestions:

- All the minor suggestions have been addressed in the revised manuscripts.

**Reviewer 2: Ken Redekop**

Major compulsory revisions:

Reviewer: There should be more use of tables to describe the values used in the calculations as well as the data sources for these values. **Response:** An appendix Table has been included providing all the data used in the estimations and the sources.

Reviewer: The authors used 14600 IU of insulin per year in their calculations… However, Bercelo et al appear to have used 10000 IU per year. **Response:** In the course of revision, we have used 10000 IU per person per year as in Bercelo et al.

Reviewer: ..One difference is the fact that Bercelo et al stratified countries in Latin America and the Carribbean according to per capita GNP and then proceeded to obtain costs for different costs components for one or two countries in each group. **Response:** Following reviewer’s suggestion, we have categorized countries in the African Region into three group using the Gross National Income per capita (in international dollars – PPP) and proceeded to estimate the costs by each group.

Reviewer: Also, this study seems to have ignored the costs of complications entirely (unlike, for example, Barcelo et al, 2003). **Response:** It was not possible to do this due to lack of data. Thus, we have include this concern among the limitations of the study.