Author's response to reviews

Title: The HAART Cell Phone Adherence Trial (WelTel Kenya1): A randomized controlled trial protocol [Trial Registration Number: NCT00830622]

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

Thank you for the helpful review comments. The two issues raised are related to the randomization and study participant allocation. Both of the reviewer’s suggestions are addressed in the Randomization paragraph on page X of the manuscript.

1. The randomization process was clarified with the study statistician who assigned to the project at its conception. The site stratification was used and is now included in the manuscript.
2. Assessment for balance of randomization allocation between the clinics will be done by comparing basic demographic and staging information: age, gender, and baseline CD4 count at ART initiation as indicated.

We hope this is satisfactory and look forward to publication in your journal.

Sincerely,
The authors

**Randomization**

A project statistician generated 1:1 randomization numbers for study arm assignments using a random number generating program. The randomization was stratified in a 2:2:1 ratio to the three clinics (the rural clinic having the lower number of assignments). Written allocation of assignment is sealed in individual opaque envelopes marked with study identification numbers which are distributed to all three study clinics in sufficient quantity to allocate the target numbers of participants. After consenting to participate and meeting inclusion criteria, screened subjects are enrolled and immediately afterward are assigned to the randomized study arm by a clinician opening the sealed envelopes to determine allocation. Age, gender, and CD4 T cell counts will be assessed for balance of study arm allocation at each site.