Author’s response to reviews

Title: NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES IN ABUJA/NIGERIA AND ENVIRONS

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES IN ABUJA/NIGERIA AND ENVIRONS" (EMMD-D-19-00026R1)

Authors Corrections/Rebuttal

1. A literature review on relevant information on medical emergencies with a focus on low income countries.

COMMENTS

This statement is not complete. It does not flow in the structure of this paragraph

I suggest it reads " A literature review on relevant information on medical emergencies with a focus on low income countries was done."

Answer: “ It is fixed as required or demanded.

2. Page 8

Painkillers and other medicines are administered, an oxygen mask is placed on the face of the victim when the patient cannot breathe properly and the heart rate and volume are monitored using the ECG machine in the ambulance.
The ECG machine measures heart rate. Does it measure volume? ..and volume of what? Please clarify

Answer it measures respiratory volume. Volume parameters (total lungs capacity, tidal breath, functional remaining capacity and others) characterize potential and functionality of human body parts that respond for respiratory functions. Physical parameters are related to mechanical model of respiratory system. Respiratory rate is one of those parameters. Gas metathesis parameters are related to gas penetration into human body and exhausting from it when breathing. All those parameters are interdependent and measurement of some of those parameters gives us possibility to calculate the rest of them.

3. Page 8 Table 4

"Table 4 shows the average delay times observed during the observation period of 14 days. The delay times from point of call to arrival at the scene ("transport delay") for MAITAMA and NEMA were 15-30 minutes, FRSC delay times were much longer (over 35 minutes)."

COMMENT

Your explanatory notes for table 4 doesn't seem to match what is in the table. You have "RESPONSE TIME" in the Table but used "TRANSPORT TIME" and "DELAY TIME" in the explanatory notes for table 4. Please clarify; Do these terms mean the same? Please compare with your own definitions below

Answer- Yes they mean the same thing.

" Delay times of pre-clinical care ("transport delay"from call to arrival of ambulance at scene)"
"Table 4 Response time (in minutes) from the event to rescue to clinical care in Abuja as measured during 14 days in each institution."
4. PREVIOUS QUERY

DISCUSSION

"PAGE 10, LINE 3 'In this study, we distinguished between "call delay" (from occurrence of the event until calling the call centre) and "transport delay" (from receiving the call at the centre to arriving at the hospital/health care facility). The call delays were obtained through observational periods and interviews with victims...'

COMMENT - There was no data presented to substantiate the above. Please clarify

ANSWER: Table 4. Shows the different data."

Answer- Rescue time(Arrival at scene/transport) for an emergency service starts from receiving of call(s) to arrival at the final health care facility. And all of those is/are refer to as response time. So from the forgoing table 4 is referring to your above query.

Many thanks for the useful comments.