Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identifying heterogeneous health profiles of primary care utilizers and their differential healthcare utilization and mortality – a retrospective cohort study

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Author’s response to reviews:

22 March 2019
Dr. Stephen Madamba
Assistant Editor
Biomed Central

Dear Dr. Stephen Madamba,

Re: Manuscript “Identifying heterogeneous health profiles of primary care utilizers and their differential healthcare utilizations and mortality patterns using electronic health databases – a retrospective cohort study” (BMC Family Practice - FAMP-D-18-00383R1)

On the behalf of my co-authors, we would like to thank you and the reviewers for the effort and time spent on improving our manuscript. We have reviewed the comments and revised the manuscript accordingly. Our point by point responses to the comments are as follows.
Editor Comments:
1. While assessing your manuscript in-house, we found several instances where the text displayed similarities to text found in other previously published sources. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the sections listed below to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate:


We understand that it may be impractical to rewrite or omit the methodology described in your paper to avoid overlap with previous publication, especially since the previous publication is one of your own. The overlap primarily exists in the Background and the Statistical Analysis section of the Methods. Please summarize these methods or acknowledge this publication in the text.

Authors’ reply: We agreed that the similarities should be rephrased to avoid overlap with previously published sources. We have revised the parts where similarities exist and cited the paper in Reference list 9 as suggested.

2. Please remove the Funding information from the title page, as this information is already provided in the Declarations section.

Authors’ reply: Thank you for the suggestion. We deleted the funding information from title page.

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Authors’ reply: Thank you for your suggestion. We prepared a single, final, clean version.

Yours sincerely,

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