Author’s response to reviews

Title: Motivational factors for blood donation, potential barriers, and knowledge about blood donation in first-time and repeat blood donors

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Responses to reviewers’ comments

Reviewer 1

1. Methods, Page 7, line 144-145. Authors accepted reviewer’s suggestion and changed the statement to ‘The questionnaire assessed the following four categories: Socio demographic characteristics of participants (7 items), motivators of blood donation (6 items), 145 deterrents to blood donation (9 items), and knowledge about blood donation (5 items).’

2. Methods, Page 8 line 156. Authors inserted (SD) after standard deviation

3. Methods, Page 8, line 163. Authors accepted reviewer’s suggestion and change the sentence to ‘The significance level was set at 0.05’

4. Methods, page 8, line 164. The knowledge questions were chosen to assess participants knowledge and awareness of the general requirements to become an eligible donor.

5. Methods, page 8, line 167-170. Based on the valid comments and suggestions of reviewers, we have decided not to measure the overall knowledge score of participants. We agreed with the reviewers that five knowledge variables are not sufficient to measure the overall knowledge of the donors.

6. Results. All percentages are reported with one decimal place

7. Results. All percentages are reported with one decimal place

8. Results. Page 9, line 192. We reviewed results presented in this section.

9. Results. The order of tables have been rearranged and tables moved to the end of manuscript after references
10. Results, Table 4 (previously Table 3). The variables "When someone I know is in need" and "To help a person in need" are different variables. “When someone I know is in need” refers to a situation where the donor donates blood for a family member, friend, or colleague who is in need of blood. “To help a person in need” on the other hand describes a situation where a donor donates blood for a stranger who is in need of blood.

11. Results, Table 7. We reviewed the presentation of results in Table 7

12. Results. We rewrote the results section to focus on the most important findings

13. Conclusion, Page 25, Line 405. Based on the valid comments and suggestions of reviewers, we have decided not to measure the overall knowledge score of participants. We agreed with the reviewers that five knowledge variables are not sufficient to measure the overall knowledge of the donors.

14. Conclusion: Page 25, line 400-409. We have rewritten the entire conclusion taking into consideration the suggestions of the reviewer. Also, deterrents have been reworded as barriers throughout the manuscript

15. Conclusion: Page 25, line 400-409. We have rewritten the conclusion taking into consideration the suggestions of the reviewer. Also, we indicated how our findings might contribute to the recommendation.

Reviewer 2

1. Based on the valid comments and suggestions of reviewers, we have decided not to measure the overall knowledge score of participants. We agreed with the reviewers that five knowledge variables are not sufficient to measure the overall knowledge of the donors.

2. We have rewritten some of results to avoid repetitions in the table and in the text

3. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study in Ghana to assess the motivators and barriers of first time and repeat donors. Our findings will deepen understanding of what influence repeat donors in Ghana to keep donating and the barriers that may deter them from donating blood. It will also bring to light what may motivate first-time donors to return to donate and barriers that deter them from donating blood.

4. The aim of the study was to understand what influence repeat donors in Ghana to donate blood and the barriers that may deter them from donating blood. We also wanted to investigate factors that motivate first-time donors to return to donate and barriers that deter them from donating blood. We could only do this by interviewing first-time and repeat donors.