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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Reviewer 2

1. The questionnaire was designed after a comprehensive review to include relevant variables from previously published studies (Suemnig et al. 2017; Shaz et al. 2010; Asamoah-akuoko et al. 2017; Alfouzan 2014; Thakur et al. 2015; Nwogoh et al. 2013).

2. The knowledge questions were constructed based on information provided by the National Blood Donation service of Ghana.

3. The questionnaire was reviewed by a medical doctor and a public health expert. Recommended amendments after the review were made to improve the questionnaire.

4. We pretested the questionnaire on 15 outpatient to ascertain the clarity, practicability of the questionnaire and to identify poorly constructed items. Relevant changes were made after the pre-test.

2. We have rewritten major aspects of the results to avoid the repeat of matter in tables and again in text

3. Even though several studies have been conducted on blood donation, this is the first study in Ghana (to the best of our knowledge) to assess the motivators and barriers of first time and repeat blood donors.
• Our findings, therefore, have deepened the understanding of what influence repeat donors in Ghana to keep donating and the barriers that may deter them from donating blood.

• It has also brought to light some of the factors that motivate first-time donors to return to donate and barriers that deter them from donating blood.

• These findings are crucial to achieving Ghana’s objective of recruiting and retaining adequate regular voluntary non-remunerated blood donors to ensure regular supply of blood to meet the demand for blood in healthcare facilities.

4. We agree that non-donors would have provided essential information on barriers. However, the current study was commissioned to determine how to retain first-time donors through an understanding of the motivators and barriers of first-time and repeat donors. We could only do this by interviewing first-time and repeat donors on what motivate them to donate or discourage (potential barriers) them from donating blood. Similar studies in the future may consider non-donors as study subjects.