Author’s response to reviews

Title: Significant proportion of acute hepatitis B in Poland in 2010-2014 attributed to hospital transmission: combining surveillance and public registries data.

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for your comments, please find below the answers to all Editor’s Comments:

1) In the section ‘Declarations, Availability of data and materials’ (Line #326 in latest revised manuscript) the previous information has been removed and the following sentence including relevant links have been added:

"The dataset supporting the conclusions of this article is available in the Zenodo repository: http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1196322. Demographic data used in analysis were provided by the Department of Demographic Surveys and Labour Market in Central Statistical Office and were publicly available from: http://demografia.stat.gov.pl/bazademografia/Tables.aspx. Data on hospitalization were also publicly available and relevant link was provided in the text."

2) None of the dataset used is private, so no formal ethics approval is required. The study is based on surveillance data and the legal basis for the collection of data on communicable diseases as part of epidemiological surveillance is the Act on the Prevention and Control of
Infections and Infectious Diseases in Humans (art. 30). National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene in Warsaw is appointed by Chief Sanitary Inspector as a national specialist entity authorized to keep a registry of communicable diseases (GIS-EP-NE-400-234/MI/12).

In section “Declarations, Ethics approval and consent to participate:” the previous sentence was complemented and relevant reference was added:

“The study is based on surveillance data and as such does not necessitate approval of Ethical Committee. Collection of data on communicable diseases as part of epidemiological surveillance is carried out by the State Sanitary Inspection and NIPH-NIH according to the existing legislation: Act of 5th December 2008 on the Prevention and Control of Infections and Infectious Diseases in Humans [33].”

Added reference:


3) Final, clean version of the manuscript was uploaded. Figures were uploaded as separate files and remained unchanged.