Author’s response to reviews

Title: Retention in care and virological failure among adult HIV+ patients on second-line ART in Rwanda: A national representative study

Authors:

Sabin Nsanzimana (nsabinco@gmail.com)
Muhammed Semakula (semakulam@gmail.com)
Vedaste Ndahindwa (ndahindwa@gmail.com)
Eric Remera (ericremera@gmail.com)
Dieudonne Sebuhoro (sebudieu@yahoo.fr)
Jean Paul Uwizihwe (uwizihwejp@gmail.com)
Nathan Ford (nathanpford@gmail.com)
Marcel Tanner (marcel.tanner@unibas.ch)
Steve Kanters (steve.kanters@precisionhealtheconomics.com)
Edward Mills (emills@mteksciences.com)
Heiner Bucher (Heiner.Bucher@usb.ch)

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for your comments; we have provided clarifications and edits as suggested.

#1: Can you please provide clarification on whether the data in this study were de-identified or not and hence participatory consent was waived? If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation. If only previously collected data
was used in this study, and no participants were involved, please clarify this in the Ethical approval and consent to participate section.

We have improved this section to reflect your suggestions:

"We used anonymized routinely collected programme data maintained by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Division of HIV/AIDS, STIs and Other Blood Borne Infections. No participants were involved in the data collection. The use of the routine programme data has been approved by the Rwanda National Ethics Committee. The Rwanda Ministry of Health has provided approval to the principal investigator (SN) for using these data to improve the programme performance in Rwanda."

Our manuscript has been revised by different people fluent in English prior to submission.

We appreciate any other request for improvement

on behalf of the authors

Dr Sabin Nsanzimana

Rwanda Biomedical Centre