**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Trends in Antimicrobial Resistance of Bacterial Pathogens in Harare, Zimbabwe, 2012-2017: A Secondary Dataset Analysis

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Editor Comments:

1. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an ethics committee or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the committee or a reference to the relevant legislation. Additionally, if consent was waived because of the retrospective nature of a study please clarify whether any administrative permissions were required to access the raw data. If so please state who granted permission in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section.

Response 1: Information on permissions clarified pg 16-17.

This study was approved by Lancet Clinical laboratory management and the Health Studies Office in the Ministry of Health Institutional Review Board. The board waived the need for
informed consent due to the retrospective nature of the study, however we did not use patients’ information in this study as it was anonymised by use of patient account numbers. Data was kept safe and confidential and only used for this study. Administrative permission to access data was requested through the laboratory manager of Lancet Clinical laboratories Zimbabwe and granted by the Consultant Microbiologist and Information Systems Consultant at Lancet South Africa.

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Response 2: Clean manuscript uploaded.