Author’s response to reviews

Title: Social Determinants of Health Associated with Hemodialysis Non-Adherence and Emergency Department Utilization: A Pilot Observational Study

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***Thank you for your continued review of our manuscript; please see responses to your queries/requests below.*** 1. Consent to participate – clarify if written or verbal In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section, please confirm whether informed consent, obtained from all patients, was written or verbal and clearly state this in your manuscript. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this. *** Thank you for this comment. The following changes were made to reflect that participants provided either written or verbal consent (based upon recruitment location), and that the ethics board approved these consent strategies. This sentence was added to the methods: "Consenting participants completed interviews either in-person or over the phone. Written consent was obtained from participants recruited in-person, and verbal consent using a standardized script was obtained from patients recruited over the phone. Both consent strategies were approved by both institutional review boards. Research staff approached eligible controls at site 2 for recruitment during their scheduled regular outpatient HD sessions and participants providing written consent completed interviews in-person." This sentence was added to the “ethical approval and consent to participate” section: This study was approved by the institutional review boards at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Good Samaritan Hospital. Written or verbal consent was obtained from all participants. Written consent was obtained from patients who were recruited in-person. Verbal consent using a standardized script was obtained from patients who were recruited on the phone after their ED visit, since in-person written consent would not have been possible. Both consent strategies (written and verbal) were approved by both institutional review boards. 2. Authors’ contributions - approval Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript in its
current state. ***This has been updated as requested. 3. Remove supplementary file Please remove the supplementary files “BMC 12-7 clean.docx” from the manuscript, as these files are not required to be attached to the manuscript at this stage of the editorial process. ***All supplementary files should have been deleted. 4. Formatting In order to be in line with the submission guidelines for BMC Nephrology research articles (found in detail here: https://bmcnephrol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article), please make the following formatting changes: -Please rename the section titled "Introduction" to "Background" -Please rename the section in your Abstract from "Objective" to “Background" ***This has been updated. 5. Clean manuscript At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. ***A clean version is uploaded.