Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing the use of magnesium sulphate in pre-eclampsia/eclampsia management in health facilities in Northern Nigeria: a mixed methods study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

The following changes have been effected on the manuscript in line with recommendations from both reviewers.

Suggestions from the editor
1. Line 1- Title of manuscript has been modified to “Factors influencing the use of magnesium sulphate in pre-eclampsia/eclampsia management in health facilities in Northern Nigeria: a mixed methods study”.
2. Line 82- PMR is presented as 1,000 births as is custom.

Suggested revisions from Reviewer 1

Major
1. Line 106-108: The aim of this study has been explicitly stated in the last line of the introduction.
2. The last sentence in the former version has been deleted.
3. Line 483: A table has been included on method of data collection, respondents, thematic area and variables collected.
4. Line 154-165: More information has been provided in the method section on the qualitative aspect of the study.
5. Line 172-174: An introductory sentence has been included in the result section to explain how findings from both qualitative and quantitative aspects of the study would be triangulated to provide clarity on the objectives of the study.
6. Line 112-114: Data triangulation has been included in the method section.
7. Line 365: The sentence on “vertical programmatic approach as been unlikely to contribute to management of complicated obstetric cases has been reviewed” has been reviewed to read “whole system approach that focuses on key building blocks of the health system is likely to contribute....”.

Minor and discretionary
1. Line 118: has been corrected, “....readiness in the” replaced with “...readiness to”.
2. Line 487-488: Explanation about PHC and MHC has been provided as footnote in Table 2
3. Line 196-199: Supportive supervision and stock out have been defined
4. Line 207-208: The remaining 6% that accounted for those who only retrieved protocols from safekeeping for sighting by data collector added.
5. Line 285-287: The first sentence in the discussion has been reviewed in the context of quality obstetric care.
6. Line 298: The sentence has been modified to reflect reference.
7. Line 223: Patient referrals has been separated from previous paragraph on “Availability of MgSO4.”
8. Line 305-306: Sentence rephrased to avoid repetition of details of study findings.
9. Line 313: “will contribute to reducing maternal mortality and move the country closer to MDG 4 and 5” changed to “will contribute to reducing maternal mortality in the country”

Suggested revisions from Reviewer 2

1. Line 246-248: A sentence has been added to indicate the importance of infrastructure on management of PE/E using MgSo4
2. This study looked at factors that influenced management of PEE/E but with focus on use of MgSO4. Looking at infrastructure in our view is deemed appropriate for this study.
3. Line 87-88: Treatment of PE/E changed to management of PEE/E in the manuscript
4. Community perception as reported by service providers is a community factor that relates to late presentation of patients with PE/E and therefore contributing to prompt management of PE/E with MgSO4
5. Fear of side effects was not found as a barrier to MgSO4 in the management of PE/E in this study.
6. Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) and other lower cadre health workers such as environmental health assistants constitute the bulk of health work force and therefore provide clinical care in primary healthcare facilities because of dearth of manpower in Northern Nigeria
7. Calcium gluconate were available in facilities that had MgSO4 on the day of survey.