Author’s response to reviews

Title: Quality Medicines in maternal health: Results of Oxytocin, Misoprostol, Magnesium Sulfate and Calcium Gluconate Quality Audits

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Version: 2 Date: 23 Nov 2017

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Comments and answers for the revised MCH paper
1. More important is that even a small amount of blood loss will have serious consequences for anemic women as compared to non-anemic ones!
   - Noted

2. Tear are not extreme, to start with perineal and vaginal tears; cervical tears and uterine rupture are much less frequent but often more serious, although you can easily lose 500 ml in a bad perineal tear! I guess you lack sufficient obstetric expertise in your research team!
   - Thanks and noted.


4. You have to be clearer: what does a failed assay mean? I guess if contained less than the supposed active component of the drug?!
- Yes, this is right and has been corrected accordingly.

5. Reference?
- Referring to the survey result done in Ghana, this is an unpublished survey conducted by the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) Laboratory Services Department and The Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program. We have modified the sentence to make it clear that it is an unpublished work.

6. When?
- The sentence has been modified to reflect the time. “In 1992, a global estimate of 50,000 maternal deaths were attributed to eclampsia”.

7. It will prevent the first eclamptic seizure in severe preeclampsia and will prevent further seizures in eclampsia. It does not arrest seizures.
- Noted with thanks.

8. I don’t know about Nigeria, but in Tanzania where I often help, women often have to come with their own drugs, which means buying oxytocin ampoules in the shop and bringing this to hospital, of course.
- We are not aware about this practise in Nigeria.

9. Above you stated 280 samples!
- From the equation, yes 280 samples were initially supposed to be sampled but after further consideration, 234 samples was determined as true representation of the survey situation. We have removed all references of 280 samples.

10. What do you mean with ethical products”?
- “Ethical Pharmaceutical Products” are drugs which are only available legally with a doctor's prescription or consent. The sentence was modified to proper define the intent.
11. Why did you not follow the order in which you discussed the drugs in background: oxytocin, misoprostol, magnesium sulphate and calcium gluconate
   – This has been corrected accordingly.

12. You should put these things together as they are so nicely contrasting each other and that is something to be explained or discussed in the discussion.
   - Noted

13. I don’t see any mention of figure 8!
   - This has been corrected with the following statement “Minimum storage temperature of the products was found in the south-south and southeast regions, at 20.5°C and 26.0°C as illustrated in Figure 8”.

14. Is this a book: then add publisher and place of publication.

15. Haven’t you given absolute failure rates?
   - Yes, Absolute values are what has been stated in the report.

16. Further explanation for the failure rates have been stated in the discussion section.