Author’s response to reviews

Title: Spatial and Temporal Trends of Cesarean Deliveries in Uganda: 2012-2016

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Author’s response to reviews:

25th February 2019

The Editor-in-Chief

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Dear Editor,


Kindly receive our revised manuscript titled, “Spatial and Temporal Trends of Cesarean Deliveries in Uganda: 2012-2016”
We have revised the manuscript and we present a point-by-point response to each of the comments raised by the editor as highlighted below. We also confirm that the two maps of Uganda depicted in figure 2 were purposely generated by our team to display the data on spatial distribution of cesarean section rates at district level in 2012 and 2016. We are grateful that your journal is considering our paper potentially acceptable for publication in your prestigious journal.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Atuheire Barigye

Corresponding author

Issue raised Answer
1. ABSTRACT & MAIN TEXT Update abstract

We note that you have not uploaded the most recent version of your abstract to the submission system, Editorial Manager. Please update the abstract uploaded into the system. Dear Editor, thank you for this important observation. We have updated the abstract as advised.

2. DECLARATIONS

Clarify ethics

Thank you for amending your Ethics approval and consent to participate statement of the Declarations according to our previous requests. Apologies for the lack of clarify in our requests. We note that in an earlier version of your manuscript (R1), you have stated in the Methods that, ‘Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from Uganda MoH.’ However, in your revised manuscript (R2) the statement you have added to the ethics approval statement is, ‘This study used routine program surveillance data reported by health facilities for program monitoring and evaluation, with permission from the Ugandan Ministry of Health.’

In the Ethical approval and consent to participate statement of the Declarations, please clarify whether formal ethical approval was sought before carrying out your study, as administrative authorisation is not the same as ethical approval. If you did not seek ethical approval for this study, please state why not. If the need for ethics approval 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. Thank you Editor for this observation. We have clarified in the manuscript body, page 8, lines 146-150, that we did not seek ethical approval and also highlighted the reasons why we did not.
3. Please amend the heading, ‘Ethical approval’ to ‘Ethical approval and consent to participate.’ Dear Editor, we have updated the heading to ‘Ethical approval and consent to participate’; see page 18, line 288.

4. Consent for publication

We note that you have not included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in Declarations. If identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants are presented that compromise anonymity, a statement of consent to publish from the patient should be included. This section must be included even if it is not applicable to your manuscript. If consent to publish is not applicable to your manuscript please write ‘Not Applicable’ in this section. Thank you Editor for this observation. We have included the section; ‘Consent for publication’ and clarified that this was not applicable to our study. Page 18, lines 294-295

5. All authors read and approved

Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case. Dear Editor, all authors read and approved the manuscript; and we have included this statement as advised on page 19, line 317.

6. FORMATTING

Figure legends

Thank you for providing a figure legend list. We note that you have included figure keys in this list. Please remove the figure keys from the figure legend list, and incorporate them into the figure files. Figure keys should be incorporated into the graphic, not into the legend of the figure. Thank you Editor for raising this concern. We have updated the figure legends accordingly

7. Please add labels for each axis for figure 1. We note that you have not included labels for your axes for Figure 1. Please label the axes of Figure 1. Dear Editor, we have updated figure 1 as advised