Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Associated with Timing of Antenatal Clinic Attendance Among First-Time Mothers in Rural Southern Ghana.

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Version: 4 Date: 09 Jan 2020

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Data collection procedures and questionnaires of the DHDSS have been reviewed and approved by International Network of field sites with continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health (INDEPTH). Additionally, DHDSS protocols were reviewed and sanctioned by Ethical Committee of Ghana Health Service and DHRC Institutional Review Board (IRB).

The researchers of DHDSS briefed each respondent as well as their household heads about the HDSS data collection at the beginning of every update-round. Participating individuals and households were encouraged to ask for any further clarification, after which a verbal consent was sought prior to the interview; those who refused were excluded from the surveillance.

Within each round of surveillance, samples of households were randomly generated for revisit by field supervisors to verify the information as well as whether verbal consent was sought by the interviewer. This process of obtaining consent and quality assurance was approved by INDEPTH, Ethical Committee of Ghana Health Service and DHRC IRB.

To ensure confidentiality, names and other identifiers of the study participants were not included in the extracted data for this study.

The age of the study participant is clarified on page 5 under study participant section as: “All participants included in the study aged 17 years and above”.

The “Availability of Data and Materials” section is moved to page 12 under your “Declarations” section.
“Conclusion and recommendations” is names as “Conclusions” on page 11.

The cover letter is removed as suggested.