Author’s response to reviews

Title: Population awareness of risks related to medicinal product use in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR: a cross-sectional study for public health improvement in low and middle income countries

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear reviewers,

We would like to thank you for having carefully commented our paper, and for letting us the possibility to improve our manuscript.

Would you please find below the detailed answers to your comments and questions. The corrections are highlighted in the text of the revised manuscript.

We hope that this revised version will respond satisfactorily to your questions.

Referee 1

Reviewer's report:
The text is greatly improved, but it can be more improved.


As it does not bear the name of ‘province’, we have changed the wording in the new revised manuscript (L58, 124, 128).

L200: According to the authors' response, the questionnaire’s validity and reliability has not been tested. In such a case, at least, it should be noted in the discussion as one of major limitations. This paper contains a 'limitation section' starting from L403, but it discusses only recall bias. It is better to list up several limitations in one or two paragraphs.

In the first revised version of our manuscript, we had totally revised the discussion according to the requests of the two referees. In that first revised version, we discussed the limitations within each related paragraph:
- the representativeness of the population regarding the age, the gender (L296-302) and the place of residence (L309-312)
- the response rate and confidentiality issues (L302-307)
- the recall bias (L362-364)

As we now also have made changes related to the topic sentence of each paragraph of the discussion (following your request below), we believe that the limitations are now more apparent in the discussion.

The reliability and validity of the questionnaire have not been tested. However, the questionnaire was submitted to four experts in public health, epidemiology and pharmacology for an opinion, before being translated into Lao. We have now added a paragraph in the discussion of the revised manuscript (L329-333).
L259: I wonder if ‘respondents unaware’ is grammatically correct. It seems it is a word-for-word translation of a French expression. It is better to edit English again. 

We have changed the expression ‘respondents unaware’ into ‘respondents being unaware’ in the revised manuscript (L215, 216, 217, 221).

L266, 267 and others: When the number and % are written together, the numbers usually come first and then percentage. They are mixing up throughout the text. 

We have homogenized the presentation of the results in the revised manuscript by writing the numbers first (L222, 225, 258, 260, 261, 276, 285).

L284: In table 4, why only one AOR is documented? Is it true the crude OR and AOR are exactly the same? In the text, OR and AOR should be clearly written. 

Thank you for this comment. We think that there was a problem with a copy and paste regarding the Table 4 which induced the removal of the title of the column. In the previous manuscript, the odds-ratio presented as Crude odds-ratio in the Table 4 (left column) of the manuscript were the odds-ratio for each variable independently (univariate analysis) and those in the right column were related to the final model of the multivariate analysis. We have now added ‘Univariate analysis’ and ‘Multivariate analysis’ as the titles of the respective columns of Table 4. The text accompanying the Table 4 was also corrected in the revised manuscript by adding ‘a’OR (L 67, 68, 199, 244, 246).

We used a stepwise backward procedure for the regression analysis. It consists in starting with all candidates variables in the table 4 (those that were associated with p-value <0.20 in the univariate analysis). Then variables are eliminated one by one when they do not reach significance (p-value ≥0.05). In our work, all the variables were removed during the procedure except the variable district, as noted in the manuscript (L240-241). This is the reason why odds-ratio corresponding to the univariate analysis and adjusted odds-ratio corresponding to the multivariate analysis were exactly the same in the Table 4. As explained above, we have changed the Table 4 in order to make it clearer.

L334-: Discussion

Topic sentence is not clear in several paragraphs, and it is not clear if the authors are discussing their unique findings. Although it is gets better than the previous discussion, it can be much more improved by showing authors' findings first and then discuss them in each paragraph. 

We have now changed the first sentences of each concerned paragraph as requested (L309, L354). However, one paragraph (L385) –the last paragraph before the conclusion– is only reflection for policy, as previously requested by the referee 2 in the first revision of the manuscript.

L445: ‘Develop countries’ are too broad. 

The term was changed into ‘Low and middle-income countries (L/MICs)’ in the revised manuscript (L110, 404).

L464: When web references are used, access date information should be added. 

We have checked again the links of the web references used and we have added the accession date in each reference of the revised manuscript (L427, 451, 461, 470, 482, 491, 515).
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.