Author’s response to reviews

Title: Relationship between combination antiretroviral therapy regimens and diabetes mellitus-related comorbidities among HIV patients in Gaborone Botswana

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Editor Comments:

1) Please clarify in your ethics statement if the need for written consent was formally waived by the ethics committee or whether this is in line with your national regulations. If due to national regulations, please include a reference to the relevant legislation in your statement.

An example of a statement is “Participant consent was not necessary as this study involved the use of a previously-published de-identified database according to [details of national legislation].

Answer to comment # 1

Ethical approval to collect data from HIV clinics was sought and obtained from the University of Botswana Review Board and the ethics committee of the Ministry of Health and Wellness,
Botswana. Permission to consult clinic record books and systems was also sought and obtained from the clinic management. As this was a record based study, no consent to participate was required.

Editor comment # 2

2) Please include a statement regarding Ethics and Consent in the methods section as well as your declarations.

Answer to the Editor comment # 2

The statement regarding Ethics and Consent has been included in the methods as well as in the declaration.

Editor comment # 3

Please amend the title page of your manuscript to state the names of all authors in full.

Answer to the Editor comment # 3

The title page has been amended, full names of the authors have been stated.

Editor comment # 4

Please clearly indicate the corresponding author with full address and an email address on the title page.

Answer to the Editor comment # 4
The corresponding author name has name with full address and email address are stated on the title page.

These references have been corrected

Reference 5 not validated. The reference, African Health Sciences 2007; 7: 133-135, is correct. African Health Sciences is peer reviewed journal published by the African Journals Online (AJOL)

The reference 11 by Rankgoane-Pono et al has been fixed. The paper was indeed submitted at BMC Research Notes, submission number RESN-D-17-01092

Reference 12 is correct, we do not understand why it is not validated

Reference 18 has been fixed in the text

Reference 21, the journal Diabetes and Metabolism has been changed to Diabetes Metabolism