Author’s response to reviews

Title: Healthy Options: Study protocol and baseline characteristics for a cluster randomized controlled trial of group psychotherapy for perinatal women living with HIV and depression in Tanzania

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Author’s response to reviews:

November 6, 2019
Kevin Zhu
Editor, BMC Public Health

Dear Dr. Zhu:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to resubmit our article entitled “Healthy Options: Study protocol and baseline characteristics for a cluster randomized controlled trial of group psychotherapy for perinatal women living with HIV and depression in Tanzania” to BMC Public Health.

Based on feedback from the editorial staff we have outlined changes below in a point-by-point manner below using italicized text. Changes are indicated by the page/line numbers in the revised manuscript.

Editorial comments:

1) We note that the email address for the corresponding author listed on the title page of the manuscript differs from the one mentioned in the editorial submission system. Please clarify which is the correct address for the corresponding author, amending either the title page or our submission data where appropriate.

Please note that this change has been made in the manuscript to ensure consistency with the online system. The change can be found on page 1, line 10, and page 2, line 43.

2) Please include the date of trial registration with the Trial registration number in the abstract. If the date of registration is after the date that the first participant was recruited, please also state ‘retrospectively registered’.

Please find this change in the Abstract on page 3 (line 62).

3) Please add a Consent for publication heading to the Declarations section. Under this heading you may state "Not applicable" as no personal information is provided in your manuscript.

Please find this change on page 21, lines 453-454.

4) Thank you for providing an Authors’ contributions heading in the Declarations section. Please note that when two or more authors have the same initials they should be distinguished by designating them with numbers 1 and 2 (etc.). For example: YZ1 and YZ2. YZ1 would correspond to the author furthest up on the author list. Here we notice that the initials for AK can apply to two authors.

Please find this change on page 22, lines 469, 471, and 472.

We have uploaded on a clean copy of the revised manuscript based on your request. Thank you for considering this revised manuscript for possible publication in BMC Public Health.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Smith Fawzi, ScD
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School