Author’s response to reviews

Title: Women's Approval of Domestic Physical Violence Against Wives: Analysis of the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

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Title of Manuscript: Women’s Approval of Physical Violence against Wives: Analysis of the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

David Teye Doku & Kwaku Oppong Asante (Surnames of authors are in Bold)

Dear Chief Editor: BMC Women’s Health,

Please find enclosed the revised version of the manuscript. We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and effort in helping improve the content and quality of the paper with their insightful and valuable comments.

We have addressed the comments raised by the reviewer and effected the changes to the manuscript as requested.

Thank you very much, and hope that this revised manuscript would be found suitable for publication in your journal.

Yours sincerely,

David Doku

(For authors)

Reviewer’s Comment

Thank you for your re-submission of your manuscript and the effort you took to address the concerns raised by the original reviewers. The majority of these concerns have been addressed appropriately and the manuscript is stronger for doing so. There are, however, residual issues which need to be responded to. You have indicated in your response to reviewers letter that the term 'wife-beating' no longer is contained in the manuscript and for clarity around the type of violence being examined, the term 'physical domestic
violence against women' is used throughout. Whilst it is true that for the majority of the manuscript, the term 'wife beating' has been replaced, there remain numerous occasions (mainly in the discussion section) where the term appears (eg, page 5 lines 47-48; page 12 line 50; page 13 lines 16, 25, 28, 36 53). There is a similar issue (largely pages 12-15) with the terms 'physical domestic violence against women' domestic violence against women', 'domestic physical violence against wife' 'physical abuse of wife' being used interchangeably. From your response to the reviewers, you have indicated that the term 'domestic physical violence' is now used throughout. The terms 'women' and 'wife' are still used interchangeably as is 'violence' and 'abuse'. They each have different connotations and as such, consistency is vital. The manuscript addresses a very important issue and as such, I would encourage you to make these residual revisions.

Response: We have addressed all the concerns raised by the reviewer and have effected those changes accordingly. Key descriptions of the changes in the manuscript are highlighted below:

1. The word “women” is used in this study when we specifically refer to the sample used in this study (i.e. women aged 15–49-year-old). However, when describing their response and acceptance of physical domestic violence against married women (which is the main outcome variable), then the phrase “physical domestic violence against wife/wives” is used.

2. “Violence” is used to instead of abuse throughout the manuscript. However, when describing previous studies conducted in relation to abuse of women, then “abuse” is used. In this manuscript, the word abuse had been used 3 times, all in the introduction section.

3. Wife beating has now been replaced throughout the manuscript with “physical domestic violence”.