Author’s response to reviews

Title: Experiences from a Community Advisory Board in the Implementation of Early Access to ART for All in Eswatini: A qualitative study

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Response to Editor Comments

Article title: Experiences from a Community Advisory Board in the Implementation of Early Access to ART for All in Eswatini: A qualitative study

1. In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: Text has been revised to include “The funders had no role in study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation or writing the manuscript”. Page, Lines 648 – 651.
2. Currently, the contributions of authors SM, DM and IK do not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below.

Response: Authors SM, DM and IK have been removed from the author list since their contribution was primarily on supervising the research assistants involved in data collection. The revision to the author list has been communicated to the 3 authors. Revisions on page 1, Lines 4-5 & page 25, Lines 653-656.

3. Please only use the 'Acknowledgements' section to acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials. Any funding or conflicts of interest statements should be included in the “Funding” and “Competing Interests” sections respectively.

Response: Text in the acknowledgements section has been revised as suggested. Page 656 – 659.

4. Thank you for providing details regarding consent to participate in the Methods section of your manuscript. However, please also include a statement on consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

Response: A statement has been included on page 25, Lines 638 – 639.

5. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please also clarify why the ethics review board felt the need for written consent was not necessary for the focus groups.

Response: Since the CAB group was used to meeting regularly as a group as part of the CAB meetings, it was felt that verbal consent was suitable for the group discussion as participants were already participating in similar discussions, but for individual interviews which were inviting participants to reflect on more personal aspects it was felt necessary to have additional written consent.

6. Please upload only one copy of your manuscript.

Response: one copy of the manuscript has been uploaded.
7. At this stage, please upload your proofread manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Response: Table 1 has been uploaded using a separate file.

8. Completing the authorship form

Response: Some signatures are still outstanding from some authors since some are on vacation due to the upcoming Easter holidays. The form will be completed and submitted by 06 May, 2019.