Author's response to reviews

Title: The Role of Institutions in the Effectiveness of Malaria Treatment in the Ghanaian Health Sector

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Comments

Title: The Role of Institutions in the Effectiveness of Malaria Treatment in the Ghanaian Health Sector

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Page 5, 2nd paragraph: Recruitment: Please be explicit and confirm how the investigators knew who to recruit. That is, did they obtain the information from medical records and then try to find them through a phone call or a home visit, based on the data on contact location in the medical records? How did they know who to approach in public places?
Response: Done. Please see page 6

Minor essential revisions
Response: done. (individual is replaced with community members).

3. 2nd sentence, 2nd paragraph: When institutions are “right”...not clear what this means...do you mean functioning properly, are accountable? Please expand.
Response: done. Please see page 3.

4. 3rd paragraph: 2nd sentence: This sentence is written in an awkward way and is a bit of a run on sentence. Please revise.
Response: Done. Please see page 3

5. Section 1.1 (page 3): first sentence...add “s’ to relationship so it should read “institutional relationships”... Edit first sentence, it is too long and should be revised for clarity.
Response: done. Please see page 4

6. Reference definition of decentralization. Done.

7. Section: 2.1 (page 4, 1st sentence): Remove “the” in the sentence between “Ghana’s” and “ten” so it should read “The survey data used....in three of Ghana’s ten administrative regions....”.
Response: Done.

8. Page. 5, last paragraph, 3rd sentence: In general, hundred patients....” Is it one hundred? Add the correct qualifier here.
Response: done.
9. Page 6, last paragraph, 2nd sentence: add an “s” to outcomes...i.e., “...older patients were expected to have poorer outcomes than the young patients....”

Response: done.

10. Page 8, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence: Revise sentence to read: “All these factors were expected to have a positive effect....”

Response: done.

11. Move the following sentences from the results to the discussion sections:
- page 10, 3rd paragraph, 4th sentence: "Thus it is possible that patients from...."
- page 11, first paragraph, sentence beginning with “Given that the teaching hospital represents....”

Response: done.

12. Page 11, first paragraph of discussion section: Move the discussion around the validity of self-reported data to limitations section.

Response: done.

13. begin the discussion section with a summary of the key findings (i.e., this should be the first paragraph in the discussion section)


14. page 12, last paragraph: what does ethnolinguistic fractionalization mean? This needs to be defined particularly in relation to the findings of the present study.

Response : done. Please see page 14.

15. page 13, 1st line: add a comma after malaria so sentence should read...”...in order to provide effective treatment of malaria, the facility....”

16. page 13 (section 3.2): add an “s” to Limitation heading (i.e., Limitations)-move discussion from -first paragraph of discussion to this section. Other limitations: self-report data, other factors not measured including income, length of training for doctors/nurses, generalizability to other settings, other unmeasured confounders etc....

Response: done. Please see page 16

17. page 13 (section 4.0): add “s” to Conclusion (i.e., Conclusions)

Response: done.

18. Table 1: add total sample size to the title: i.e., “Table 1: Characteristics of study participants and facilities (n=....)”

Response: done

19. Rename the title in Table 3 to be more informative. For example, patient characteristics, facility characteristics and institutional factors associated with treatment effectiveness.

Response: done
Discretionary Revisions: can ignore
Response: discretionary revisions were ignored.

Thank you.