Author’s response to reviews

Title: Barriers to universal health coverage in Republic of Moldova: a policy analysis of formal and informal out of pocket payments

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your additional questions on our paper "Barriers to universal health coverage in Republic of Moldova: a policy analysis of formal and informal out of pocket payments.” Below are our responses:

1. Were all sources of data apart from the questionnaire publicly available? If not, was permission required to access any of the data?

Policy documents, laws, and the results from the prior study of hospitalized patients were all publicly available. The Household Budget Survey (HBS) and Ad Hoc Module on Health were obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics, as we note in the methods session. We had approval from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova to use the HBS and Ad Hoc Module data. We have added a line to explain this on page 9, line 238-239.

2. For the survey, please clarify if the consent was written or verbal.

We assume you are referring to the HBS and Ad Hoc Module data. Respondents were informed on confidentiality of data and gave written informed consent. We explain this on p. 8, line 214-215.

3. In the author contributions section, could you put the information on the affiliations of the authors in a separate “Authors’ Information” section please?

We have created a new “Authors’ Information” section according to the
TV is Associate Professor of Global Health in the Department of Global Health at the Boston University School of Public Health, where she conducts research on health policy, financing, transparency, and governance issues. FF is Associate Professor and Chair Ad-interim of the Department of Global Health at the Boston University School of Public Health. JH is WHO Representative in the Republic of Moldova. AM is currently a Health Systems Officer in the WHO Country Office in Moldova. At the time of the study he was working in the Department for Budgeting, Financing and Insurance of the Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova. SD is currently a WHO Health Systems Analyst with the Health Reform Support Programme in Greece. At the time of the study, he was a staff member of WHO Country Office in Moldova. AN works for the National Bureau of Statistics, Republic of Moldova.

4. Please ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style.

We have followed the style guidelines provided.

Please let us know if you have additional questions. Thank you.