Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of Community Health Volunteers' Knowledge on Cervical Cancer in Kadibo Division, Kisumu County: A Cross Sectional Survey

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To

The Editor,

BMC Health Services Research

RE: Re-submission of manuscript BHSR-D-17-00215 entitled, ‘Assessment of Community Health Volunteers' Knowledge on Cervical Cancer in Kadibo Division, Kisumu County: A Cross Sectional Survey.’

Dear Guedou:

This manuscript was originally submitted under the BHSR-D-17-00215 with a recommendation of ‘resubmission’. We appreciate the thorough and prompt review of our work. We have made all the suggested changes in the manuscript. We have read through the comments and addressed them in a point-by-point fashion - indicated in the text of the revised version of our work (in yellow). It is with great pleasure that we re-submit this manuscript for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

Reviewer reports:
Reviewer 1: The article focuses on a very important topic of public health, sensitive not only to developing countries. The fact that volunteers themselves are not aware of all the risks involved in acquiring cervical cancer may be determinant for the health of people receiving the care. Statistic resources are well used and presented. The discussion takes results into consideration in a very adequate manner. I recommend an English review because of some minor mistakes. Also, may the authors please make sure that every time they present an acronym, they have already presented the whole name of the thing it stands for.

Response: We thank reviewer for the constructive comments. We have therefore had the manuscript reviewed by the American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS).

The whole names of the acronyms have also been presented as follows: in the abstract, Community Health Volunteer (CHV) is on page 2, line 32 and Ministry of Health (MOH) on page 2, line 34. In the background section the words Women of Reproductive Age (WRA) is on page 3, line 86-87, Family AIDS Care and Education Services (FACES) on page 3, line 88, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) on page 3, line 89. Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) is on page 4, line 95 while World Health Organization (WHO) on page 5, line 114 and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is on page 5, line 117. In the methods section, District Health Information System (DHIS) is introduced on page 7, line 169-170, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) on page 8, line 205-206 and Maseno University Ethical Review Committee (MUERC) on page 8, line 206-207. In the results section, the words Minimum (Min) and Maximum (Max) are presented on page 10, line 236 and 237 respectively. Standard Deviation (SD) is also on page 10, line 237. Odds Ratio (OR) and Confidence Interval (CI) are introduced on page 10, line 249 while Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA) and Visual Inspection using Lugol’s Iodine are introduced on page 12, lines 287 and 288 respectively.

Reviewer 2: In lines 239-247, there seems to be no logic or basis in comparing the factor variables of the respondents with specific knowledge of particular risk factors of cervical cancer. The analysis should explore relationship between general knowledge and possible determining factors.

Response: We have deleted the comparison of the respondents’ demographic characteristics with specific knowledge of particular risk factors of cervical cancer. This has been replaced with logistic regression analysis exploring the relationship between general knowledge on risk factors associated with cervical cancer and the determining factors. This is on the results section on page 10, lines 244 to 250 and on Table 3 on page 24.

If I can provide any additional information that may assist in the review process, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of the manuscript.

Thank you.

Edwin Ochomo, MPH