Author’s response to reviews

Title: Substance use and self-harm: a cross-sectional study of the prevalence, correlates and patterns of medical service utilisation among patients admitted to a South African hospital

Authors:
Elsie Breet (elcbreet@gmail.com)
Jason Bantjes (jbantjes@sun.ac.za)
Ian Lewis (ian.lewis@uct.ac.za)

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Author’s response to reviews:
Ms Elsie Breet
Department of Psychology,
Stellenbosch University,
Stellenbosch, South Africa

29th January 2018
BHSR-D-17-00316R2

Dear Dr. Rahul Shidhaye,

The authors would like to thank BMC Health Research and the reviewers for the further consideration of our original and revised research manuscript entitled: “Substance use and self-harm: a cross-sectional study of the prevalence, correlates and patterns of medical service utilisation among patients admitted to a South African hospital” (BHSR-D-17-00316R2).

We would like to accept the invitation to revise the manuscript for further consideration by BMC Health Service Research. As per the technical instruction received on 27th January 2018 we have made revisions using track changes. The remainder of this letter includes a point-by-point
response to editorial comments describing exactly what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be viewed.

The manuscript contains original material that has not been published previously and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Each author has contributed significantly to the work and agrees to the submission. There is no conflict of interest regarding this article.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Corresponding author: Elsie Breet, Private Bag X1, Matieland, Stellenbosch, 7602, South Africa.
Telephone number: +27 21-808 3459. Email: elsie@sun.ac.za
Co-authors: Dr Jason Bantjes and Dr Ian Lewis

Response to the editor: Dr. Rahul Shidhaye
1. Comment: There is still one pending issue related to first sentence in the conclusion section of the abstract which is, 'This data suggests that acute use of substances at the time of self-harm in South Africa may be associated with medically serious self-injury.' Line 398-399 on page 19 which is part of the conclusion section of the manuscript deletes this entire sentence and doesn't mention association with medically serious self-injury. Please make appropriate changes in the abstract as well.

Response: The line “This data suggests that acute use of substances at the time of self-harm in South Africa may be associated with medically serious self-injury.” has now been deleted from the abstract (see line 18 to 19, Abstract, page 2).