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

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Author’s response to reviews:
9th February 2018
BHSR-D-17-00316R3

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-17-00316R3).

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 8th February 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.
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Response to the editor: Dr. Rahul Shidhaye
1. Comment: Please remove the heading ‘Objectives’ from the abstract on both the submission system and the manuscript.

Response: The heading ‘Objectives’ have now been removed from the submissions system and the manuscript. (see line 18 to 19, Abstract, page 2).

2. Comment: In the Funding section, please indicate the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: The ‘Funding’ section has now been modified:

“The financial assistance from the National Research Foundation (NRF) (TTK13070620647), and the NRF Innovation Doctoral Scholarship (UID-102311) is hereby acknowledged. Funding received from the NRF was used for data collection, but the NRF did not play a role in the analysis and interpretation of data. Therefore, opinions expressed or conclusions arrived at in this work are those of the author and should not necessarily be regarded as those of the NRF.”
3. Comment: We have noticed that data contained in ‘Additional file 2_BHSR-D-17-00316R2.xlsx’ contains potentially identifiable data, which may compromise participant identity. Please delete the following potential identifiers: age, race, gender. Instead of being removed, age may be provided in ranges instead of absolute ages.

Response: The following potential identifiers have now been deleted: age, race, gender.