Author’s response to reviews

Title: Policy Implications of Regional Variations in Eye Disease Detection and Treatment on Prince Edward Island: A Repeated Cross-sectional Analysis, 2010-2012

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Technical comments:

1- Please remove the additional copy of the manuscript and the point-by-point response from the additional files.

Response: As requested, we have removed the additional copy of the manuscript and the point-by-point response letter from the additional files inventory. In our current re-submission, our revised manuscript has been included in the “Manuscript” inventory and the responses to the reviewer (including the changes we have made to the manuscript) have been included in the “Response to reviewers” box.

2- Please clarify in the figure legends the sources of the maps in figures 1 and 2. Could you clarify if you own the copyright for the map images or have permission to reproduce them (and that the copyright holder is aware that the figures will be published in an open access journal under a creative commons license).
Response: Figures 1 and 2, both of which are maps, were created by one of the co-authors using the ESRI ArcGIS software. In order to generate the maps and the information included within them, we required Forward Sortation Area boundary and population data from Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada data is available for use, reproduction and publishing, including for value added products such as the maps created for our study, through the Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement (https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/reference/licence), given that the outlined conditions are met, which we did ensure we met. As such, Statistics Canada does not require notification or for us to obtain permission in order to use the boundary file data used to create our maps. Information regarding the location of ophthalmologist and optometrist offices’ is publicly available on the Internet.

We have added the following sentence in the figure 1 and 2 legends (page 28, lines 565-567 and lines 576-578) to clarify that Statistics Canada information has been utilized to generate this value-added product:

“Forward Sortation Area boundary data and population counts obtained from Statistics Canada, Forward Sortation Area boundary data, 2011. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.”