Author’s response to reviews

Title: Uptake and correlates of HIV testing among men in Malawi: evidence from a national population–based household survey

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REVISION FOR MANUSCRIPT BHSR-D-18-02030R1

“Uptake and correlates of HIV testing among men in Malawi: evidence from a national population–based household survey”

Editor Comments (by Dr. Mohammad)

Both reviewers and myself have concerns about the inclusion of Frequency of listening to the radio, Frequency of reading newspaper, and Frequency of watching TV in your analysis. Please remove all these three variables from your analysis and update the Discussion, Results, and Methods accordingly.

Thank you for your comment. We have removed these three variables (Frequency of listening to the radio, Frequency of reading newspaper, and Frequency of watching TV) from our analysis. We have updated the changes in the following sections:

Abstract (See page2, Paragraph 3, line number 35 to 41)

Methods (See page 8, paragraph 1, line 159 to 161)

Results (See page 11, Line 231 to 246)

Discussion, we have deleted the explanation for the mass media and included a paragraph to provide some potential explanations for the observed positive association between being covered by health insurance and HIV testing. See page15, line 327 to 337 it reads:
“This study revealed that being covered by health insurance was associated with increased likelihood of HIV testing among Men in Malawi. This finding concurs with the results of a previous study in Haiti which reported that men who had health insurance were likely to have been tested for HIV compared to those who had no health insurance. The most plausible explanation for this relationship is that men with health insurance tend to have access to regular health care and screenings including HIV testing than those who do not have health insurance. Besides, increased use of health care services by men with insurance also increases their chances of being offered the test through frequent encounters with health care providers. Therefore, there is a need to promote interventions such as free community based HIV testing programs to reach men with no health insurance in order to increase HIV testing among men in Malawi”.

We have also updated both Tables 1 and 2. See Table 1 on Page 27 and Table 2 on page 30