Author's response to reviews

Title: An exploratory study of what happens to women who are denied abortions in Cape Town, South Africa

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Version:5 Date:4 March 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
4 March 2015

Dr Pilar Valanzasca & Dr Jose Belizan

The Reproductive Health Editorial Team

MS:  1006471937144408: Title: An exploratory study of what happens to women who are denied abortions in Cape Town, South Africa

Jane Harries, Caitlin Gerdts, Mariette Momberg and Diana Greene Foster

Thank you for your further comments dated 17 February 2015. I have altered the manuscript accordingly, as detailed below. I hope that the manuscript is now suitable for publication in Reproductive Health.

Thank you

Jane Harries PhD MPH (corresponding author)

1. **Please start the Discussion section giving a statement of principal findings of the study. Summarise key results with reference to study objectives.**

Response: The discussion now starts with a statement of the principal findings. (page 13)

Women’s responses to being denied an abortion varied, some were able to return at a later date, others decided to continue with the pregnancy and yet others who were denied an abortion did seek out illegal abortion providers though none actually followed through with the service.

2. **Please delete the first sentence of the Discussion section: This is the first qualitative study undertaken in South Africa exploring what happens to women who are denied a legal abortion.**

Response: This sentence has now been deleted as requested on page 13.

3. **Please provide a new version of the abstract in case you did any change derived from the reviewers’ comments. In addition, in the Abstract and the Conclusions sections try to avoid recommendations that are beyond the results of your study.**

Response: The reviewers did not request any changes to the abstract however some minor changes have been made.

All efforts have been made to avoid recommendations however previous work in the area of abortion in South Africa (SA) for which the primary author has undertaken extensive research has similar recommendations- in discussion with key policy makers in SA and following dissemination of results of this study, areas for improvement have been identified by key policy makers and stakeholders in South
Africa and thus we do not feel we are making comments or recommendations beyond this study as it points to barriers to abortion access in South Africa.

4. **Please, in the new version of the manuscript provide the affiliation of the authors as stated in Instruction for Authors of the Journal.**

Response: All affiliations of the 4 authors have been provided in full as in Instruction for Authors of the Journal.

5. **Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/info/instructions/). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.**

Response: The manuscript has been correctly formatted for the BMC Journal as per the website.

Please note changes are provided in track change in the final version as requested.

Thanking you

Jane Harries