Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluating the impact of a quality management intervention on post-abortion contraceptive uptake in private sector clinics in Western Kenya: a pre- and post-intervention study

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Reviewer/Editor reports:

1. Statistical analyses – please clarify exactly what analyses were done to account for the hierarchical nature of the data. Usually clustering is addressed through the use of multilevel modelling, and/or with random effects specified. Straight multivariate logistic regression analyses are not enough.

   Thank you for this comment. We used the cluster option in the regression models to account for clustering in the data in the previous version that we submitted. As advised by the reviewers, we have updated our analysis in this submission to use multi-level modelling, as now described in the results section: “We used chi-squared tests to determine whether there were significant differences between pre- and post-intervention groups, and fitted a multi-level random effects logistic regression model, to adjust for differences between sample characteristics at baseline and post-intervention and potential confounding factors, and to take into account the hierarchical nature of the data, i.e. that individuals are clustered within clinics.” (Page 9, line 170). The final figures are therefore very slightly different, but the results remain the same. We have updated the results section to reflect the slightly updated figures.

2. Please address the following grammatical and typographical errors:
Please keep the tense of the paper consistent throughout, it starts in the present, and the results are presented in the past tense.

Thank you for noting this discrepancy, we have edited the aims and methods to be in the past tense.

Line 108 replace semi-colon with a colon e.g. “following criteria:”

This has been amended.

Line 111 add “the” e.g. All twelve clinics in the Western Region

This has been amended.

Line 131 add “and” e.g. ; (4) values clarification; and (5) re-orientation

This has been amended.

Line 396 add the word “overall” e.g. but there was no overall increase in uptake of PAFP in the two weeks following the abortion.

This has been added.

Line 398 remove the second full stop

This has been corrected.

Table 3 – to improve readability, take out the confidence intervals for the reference group e.g. ( .- .)

We have removed the confidence intervals for the reference group.