Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** A protocol for evaluating a multi-level implementation theory to scale up obstetric triage in referral hospitals in Ghana

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**COMMENT:** Implementation Science focuses on protocols for studies promoting the uptake of evidence based policies and practices in healthcare using rigorous experimental and quasi experimental designs. We do not normally consider pre-post designs but there does appear to be a comparative element and the study is theoretically interesting.

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for this reflection, and the opportunity to have this work reviewed for Implementation Science.

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**COMMENT:** Although not a trial, the manuscript would benefit from a flow diagram illustrating the intervention and assessment phases of the study. This should replace Fig 3 which adds little to the manuscript.

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for this suggestion. We have included a flow diagram that describes the intervention and assessment phases in each of the facilities. We feel that this is more representative of our study than the CONSORT flow chart because we do not have enrollment or randomization, and process evaluation is an important component of our analysis in place of the previous Figure 3.

On page 18, lines 376-377, we have added a sentence introducing Figure 3.

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**COMMENTS:** The description of the within across analyses including the proposed synthesis of outcomes lacks sufficient detail to judge what is planned. Please expand.

**RESPONSE:** We have added some additional text describing the proposed analyses on pages 17 to 20.