

# Review of: "Exploring Clinicians' Experiences of Accessing Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing Services from Health Centers in Blantyre"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript is well structured and written. Data analysis has been done well, and the conclusion is supported by the results. There are few editorial areas which I would like to suggest the authors look at and improve in order to further enhance the manuscript as follows:

## Abstract

- In the Background - first line: (*Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis poses a great ....*); Insert in brackets the abbreviation (MDR-TB) after Tuberculosis.
- In the methods – second line: TWO health centres are not mentioned here. Please add them (Bangwe & Limbe).
- In the methods – third line (*centers. Tuberculosis clinical officers at the health centers. Data collection took a period of six weeks.*): Remove the full stop and join the two sentences by inserting "involving" between centers & tuberculosis, and also replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB.
- In the methods – third line (*centers. Tuberculosis clinical officers at the health centers. Data collection took a period of six weeks.*): I suggest to the authors to indicate dates, month, and year so that a reader can understand clearly the time of the data collection.
- In the findings – last line (*interviewed 6 (54.5%) HSAs, 3 (27.3%) were clinical officers, and 2 (18.2%) were medical assistants.*): Write HSAs in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets.
- In the interpretation – second line (*CHSU. There are also frequent stockouts of consumables and congestion during the treatment of patients.*): Write CHSU in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets.
- In the conclusion – first line (*The study revealed that clinicians experience delays in receiving DST results from CHSU. Transportation*): The long form of the abbreviation DST and the abbreviation in brackets would be best inserted in the Interpretation section where it is written "*Most clinicians experience delays in receiving sample results from the*."

## Introduction

- Page 2/17: Second paragraph:
  - First line (*According to a WHO report in 2021, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) worldwide; 6 million*): I suggest writing WHO in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets; and replacing "tuberculosis (TB)" with its abbreviation, TB.

- Page 2/17: Third paragraph:
  - Third line (*African region (1.7 million globally) in 2016[6]. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality, especially in low*): I suggest replacing "Tuberculosis" with the following: Also, TB.
- Page 2/17: Fifth paragraph:
  - First line: I suggest rephrasing "*Tuberculosis treatment failure*" to be "Treatment failure for TB" or replacing Tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB.
  - Fourth line: Replace "*World Health Organization's*" with the following: WHO's
- Page 2/17: Sixth paragraph:
  - First line: Replace Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) with the abbreviation MDR-TB
- Page 2/17: Seventh paragraph:
  - First line: Replace multidrug-resistant TB with the abbreviation MDR-TB
- Page 3/17: First paragraph:
  - First line - replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB
  - Third line - Replace Tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB
  - Fifth (last) line: Replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB
- Page 3/17: Second Paragraph:
  - Second line - Replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation, TB

## Methods

### **Study Place**

- ““““*This study was conducted in Zingwangwa, Gateway, and Ndirande health centers*”””” I suggest to the authors to check on health centres listed in the sentence because in the abstract-findings section, the authors have indicated that it was done in five (5) health centres (Zingwangwa, Gateway, Ndirande, Bangwe, Limbe).

### **Study Population**

- Replace Tuberculosis with TB

### **Study Period**

- Write MBBS4 in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets. Also indicate the time (month and year) of the rotation

### **Sample Size**

““The number of participants (TB Clinical officers) was 11 interviews until we reached saturation. Frisch J. et al. conducted a similar study where, upon interviewing 15 participants, saturation was reached.””

- Replace interviews with the following: "and were interviewed"
- Add a reference number for Frisch J, et al.

### ***Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria***

- First line: Replace Tuberculosis with TB
- Second line: Replace Tuberculosis with TB

### ***Data Management and Analysis***

- Page 5/17 – Second paragraph:
  - First line (*The final report of our study findings will be shared with the course coordinator, DHO, COMREC, KUHES library, and our*); I suggest to the authors to write DHO, COMREC, and KUHES in their long form and the abbreviations in brackets.

### ***Ethical Considerations***

- Page 6/17 – Second Paragraph:
  - Second line: replace District Health Office with its abbreviation DHO

## **Results**

### ***Social Demographic Characteristics of Participants***

- The word “*Characteriscs*” in the subheading above needs to be corrected in spellings to be characteristics
- The fifth line in the paragraph below the subheading: write MSCE in long form and the abbreviation in brackets

### ***Thematic Analysis Results***

- Write DST in its long form and the abbreviation in brackets

## **Discussion**

- Page 13/17 – First paragraph:
  - First line: Replace tuberculosis with the abbreviation TB
  - Second line: Replace drug susceptibility testing with its abbreviation DST
- Page 13/17 – Second paragraph:
  - Third line: Replace multidrug-resistant tuberculosis with its abbreviation MDR-TB

- Page 14/17: First paragraph:
  - Replace tuberculosis drug susceptibility testing with TB DST
- Page 14/17: Fourth paragraph:
  - Second line: Replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation TB
  - Third line: Replace tuberculosis drug susceptibility testing with TB DST
  - Fifth line: Replace tuberculosis with its abbreviation TB in two places where it appears
- Page 14/17: Fifth paragraph:
  - Write the long form of PMDT and its abbreviation in brackets as follows: *programmatic management of MDR-TB (PMDT)*

## Conclusions

- Page 15/17: First paragraph:
  - Second paragraph: Replace drug susceptibility testing with its abbreviation DST

## References

- Page 16/17: References 9 and 10:
  - I suggest to the authors to ensure consistency in the way the references are written. For example, in references 9 and 10, the authors are not listed while in others, e.g., Reference 7, the authors are listed.