Author’s response to reviews

Title: Healthcare workers and prevention of hepatitis C virus transmission: exploring knowledge, attitudes and evidence-based practices in hemodialysis units in Italy

Authors:

Aida Bianco (a.bianco@unicz.it)
Francesca Bova (francescabova1@virgilio.it)
Carmelo GA Nobile (nobile@unicz.it)
Claudia Pileggi (claudiapileggi@unicz.it)
Maria Pavia (pavia@unicz.it)

Version: 6 Date: 20 December 2012

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

thank you for having reviewed the manuscript "Healthcare workers and prevention of hepatitis C virus transmission: exploring knowledge, attitudes and evidence-based practices in hemodialysis units in Italy" to be published on the BMC Infectious Diseases. We have accordingly attached a copy of the revised version of the paper. All comments have been taken into account.

1) Abstract
As suggested, we have rephrased in the Methods section the sentence "All nurses working in the hemodialysis units (HDU) were invited to participate in the study and to fill in a self-administered questionnaire.", since it was better defined as "All 37 hemodialysis units (HDU) of Calabria were included in the study and all nurses were invited to participate in the study and to fill in a self-administered questionnaire.".

As suggested we added "90% of the nurses working in HDU participated in the study." in the Results section.

2) Methods
As suggested, we replaced the sentence "Reliability of the tool was checked through an additional administration for 40 nurses at a time interval of 20 days by the first administration and tested using the weighted-kappa score." with "Reliability of the tool was checked through an additional administration for 40 nurses at a time interval of 20 days by the first administration
and tested using the weighted-kappa which showed satisfactory test-retest reliability for the questionnaire score (kappa scores > 0.7)." in the Methods section. Moreover, we deleted the sentence "High kappa scores (> 0.7) showed satisfactory test-retest reliability for the questionnaire." at the end of the result section.

My colleagues and I are sincerely honoured to have our paper published in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Pavia MD, MPH
Professor of Public Health