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Dr. Schooley:

My co-authors and I are pleased to submit our manuscript titled, “**Cost-effectiveness and budget impact of whole blood pathogen inactivation in Ghana.**” This paper is the first health-economic assessment of pathogen reduction for sub-Saharan Africa (and the first assessment of whole blood pathogen reduction for any jurisdiction). Our analysis is also the most comprehensive model-based estimation of the health-economic burden of transfusion-associated adverse events for a sub-Saharan African setting. We considered six transfusion-transmitted infections and one non-infectious transfusion reaction, utilized local clinical expertise to estimate clinical resource utilization and costs, and accounted for the likelihood and timing of clinical detection of transfusion-associated adverse events. We found that whole blood pathogen inactivation is likely cost-effective in Ghana and that transfusion-transmitted sepsis is likely an underappreciated blood safety threat. These findings will be of great interest to infectious disease researchers and global health policymakers.

All authors have seen and approved the manuscript and contributed significantly to the work. The manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We prefer for figures to be printed greyscale.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely,

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