

## Point-by-point Response to Submission ID 7c954b21-14bb-4f0e-8260-6cbff9558c12

1) It mentions in your 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' section that 'Any waste generated during the biochemical markers' field procedures was properly safely disposed of as per the recommended protocol. All blood samples were discarded after completing biochemical measurements.' Please clarify whether the current study involved in any experiments with human materials, and if not please edit your ethics statement accordingly-  
**Response: The ethics statement, for this study on secondary data derived from a national survey, has been amended accordingly on Page 26**

2) We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:  
<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-018-6060-y>  
<https://downloads.hindawi.com/journals/jnme/2012/905303.pdf>

Whilst the overlap with <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-018-6060-y> exists throughout your manuscript, the overlap with <https://downloads.hindawi.com/journals/jnme/2012/905303.pdf> exists mainly in the introduction and methods section of your manuscript.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

Please rephrase these sections to minimise overlap [and if there is overlap in the Methods section, please ensure that you summarise the methods and cite the original source].

Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved and the sections of text in question have been reformulated.  
**Response: Sections have been carefully rephrased to minimise overlap and original sources have been cited in Methods as suggested.**

3) We have noted that the authors, [Abbas Balouchi - AB, Francesco P Cappuccio - FPC], are missing in the listed authors' contributions. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the 'Authors' Contributions' section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship>  
**Response: The individual specific contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the 'Authors' Contributions' section (Page 27)**