Author's response to reviews

Title: Oral anticoagulation and self-management: Analysis of the factors that determine the feasibility of using self-testing and self-management in primary care

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Dear Sir/Madam:

Please find attached the protocol of a research project regarding an intervention related to oral anticoagulation therapy and patient self-management in a primary care setting.

This project is being set up in a primary care area, at the Basque Country, in Spain and receives funding from the Carlos III Health Institute, and the Centre of Research in Chronic Conditions, Kronikgune.

The study concerns a common type of treatment for patients with chronic cardiovascular disease (namely anticoagulants) and the process of raising awareness among these patients about their illness, encouraging them to take on responsibility for the monitoring and management of their condition and thereby be able to influence its progression and their own prognosis.

This type of approach is currently being adopted in the programmes of most of the bodies responsible for health, both in our region and Spain as a whole, as well as in other areas in the world; we consider that this strengthens the rationale for our study.

In our opinion, self-management is a relevant issue that may have an impact in the way medical care is provided. Anticoagulant therapy, due to its prevalence and the profile of the patients constitutes an outstanding challenge and more evidence is needed in order to support policy decision making.

We have performed the requested changes:

1. The manuscript has been reviewed in order to explain that the pilot study has
be finished and did not determinate changes in the proposed protocol. This explanation is included in the methods section.

2. The Trial Registration number has been included at the end of the abstract as well as at the end of the methods section.

3. The requested ethics statement has been included at the end of methods section. The project received approval from the corresponding ethical committee.

4. An authors’ contribution paragraph and an acknowledgement paragraph have been included following the format you suggested. Please, find this paragraph just before the references

With best regards

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