Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of a self-management patient education program for patients with chronic heart failure undergoing inpatient cardiac rehabilitation: Study protocol of a cluster randomized controlled trial

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Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for your mail (May 10, 2013) and the comments on necessary changes. We have revised the paper and are resubmitting it for further consideration. Changes in the revised text have been marked as underlined. Additional information on informed consent and ethics has been included.

**Ethical aspects**

The study conformed to the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/17c.pdf) and was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Würzburg on 19 April 2011 (reference number: 60/11). Participation in the study is voluntary and based on written informed consent. Eligible patients will be informed about all relevant aspects of the study at the beginning of rehabilitation. Furthermore, they are informed of the right to refuse to participate or to withdraw consent to participate at any time without reprisal.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Karin Meng