Author's response to reviews

Title: A review of the barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one centre

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Editor, BMC Medical Research Methodology

July 14th, 2010
Dear Editor,

Re: Manuscript Re-Submission

We have re-submitted a manuscript titled, A review of the barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one research centre, formerly titled “The recurring recruitment challenge in primary care research”, for consideration by BMC Medical Research Methodology. This article compares recruitment strategies, results, and challenges for five practice-based primary care health services research studies in Ontario, Canada. It demonstrates that practice and physician recruitment remains a crucial yet challenging aspect of primary care research and highlights the need for more quality research to improve our current understanding and methods.

We appreciate the comments of the BMC editorial team and the two reviewers who reviewed our initial submission. We have addressed each comment and believe this manuscript makes a valuable contribution to the literature on recruitment methods, particularly for community-based primary care health services research.

We have included a table to clarify how we have addressed each of the comments made by the reviewers and changes have been tracked within the main document. We have followed the RATS reporting guidelines and have ensured the manuscript follows the Journal’s formatting style. This project was part of a quality assessment initiative in our research centre, reviewing the methods and results of studies which had all received REB approval from our institute REB. Accordingly, this project did not require separate REB approval. We have reviewed this project with the REB which agreed it did not need REB approval as long as our data was limited to projects within our centre. We have accordingly removed information on a sixth study, Project Qualité, whose Principal Investigator agreed to share information with us to better understand recruitment methods in our primary care system. This study was carried out at another centre, so we have excluded it. We do not believe that this weakens the findings of our project.

The following authors have contributed to the writing of this manuscript and approved the final version: Drs. Johnston, Liddy, Hogg, and Russell, and Ms Gyorfi-Dyke and Ms Donskov.

I confirm that all authors have seen and agree with the contents of this manuscript and confirm that the work has not been submitted or published elsewhere in whole or in part.

This manuscript is submitted in accordance with the regulations as defined by the BMC Medical Research Methodology editorial policies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required.
Sincerely,

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