Author's response to reviews

Title: A mixed-methods 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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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: Manuscript Re-Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to re-submit our manuscript titled, A mixed-methods review of the barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one centre, for consideration by BMC Medical Research Methodology. This paper compares recruitment strategies, results, and lessons learned from five practice-based primary care research projects in Ontario Canada. It demonstrates that practice and physician recruitment is a crucial yet challenging aspect of primary care research and highlights the need for more quality research to improve our current understanding and methods.

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.

We have included a table addressing each of the comments made by the reviewers on their second review of our manuscript and changes to the manuscript have been tracked within the main document.

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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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page/Section</th>
<th>Specific Comment</th>
<th>How Addressed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reviewer 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>p. 4-5</td>
<td>Include evidence from the qualitative interviews ie: provide quotations.</td>
<td>We have clarified in the methods section that notes were taken during the interviews and summaries were prepared after the interviews. However, direct quotes were not recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.4-5</td>
<td>Clarify the number of people who were involved in the qualitative data analysis.</td>
<td>The number and role of team members in the qualitative analysis has been clarified in the methods section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p.4-5</td>
<td>Clarify whether or not the study is indeed grounded theory or thematic analysis.</td>
<td>The methods section has been edited to clarify how a grounded theory approach was employed.</td>
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<td>p.12-14</td>
<td>Given the small number of projects and the specialized nature of the type of research projects involved in this study the authors had an understandably difficult time in pinpointing what sort of strategies work best, given the inevitable ‘noise’ generated by personalities involved in projects and specific local circumstances. Please emphasize the limited nature of the data.</td>
<td>We have highlighted the limitations as follows: p. 12 “All five projects involved health services research, which may be viewed differently by physicians than clinical trial studies. Clinical trials may have built-in incentives as they offer patients new, better, or otherwise unavailable care.” p. 13 “All five studies were conducted in roughly the same time period of widespread primary care reform in a single health care system and conducted solely or primarily from a single academic centre.” p.14 “Nonetheless, local factors and individual leaders may have a strong impact on recruitment, limiting the generalizability of the experience of these studies.”</td>
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<td><strong>Reviewer 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>discussion</td>
<td>Revise the discussion to express points made more concisely.</td>
<td>The discussion has been revised to address this comment.</td>
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<td>throughout</td>
<td>Edit for corrections to language.</td>
<td>The manuscript has been reviewed and edited. However, for clarity the changes made to sentence structure and grammar, have not been highlighted.</td>
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