Author's response to reviews

Title: Qualitative Systematic Reviews of Treatment Burden in Stroke, Heart Failure and Diabetes - Methodological Challenges and Solutions.

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This manuscript has been resubmitted because the figure legend has been moved so that it appears next to the figure, as per my email. It has not yet been reviewed. Our letter to the editor did also no upload. Here it is:

To THE EDITOR

Re: Qualitative Systematic Reviews of Treatment Burden in Stroke, Heart Failure and Diabetes - Methodological Challenges and Solutions.

We have chosen to submit this paper to your journal as we feel it fits within the remit of your journal and would be of interest to your readership. This study aims to do three things: a) discuss the challenges of undertaking systematic reviews of the qualitative literature, in general, by describing our experience conducting three inter-related reviews; b) describe a novel approach to the analysis of qualitative data within the context of a systematic review, namely by using Normalisation Process Theory as an underpinning conceptual framework; and c) to discuss the particular challenges of undertaking a systematic review of the literature on “Treatment burden”, a new, evolving concept, that recognises the time and effort required by patients when managing chronic illness which was introduced by three of the authors in a 2009 BMJ article titled “Minimally Disruptive Medicine”[1] and has been further described by four of the authors in a recently published study.[2]

Our group publish regularly in the BMC journals and our work is almost always “highly accessed.” In particular, our papers related to the development and use of
Normalisation Process Theory, have attracted wide interest, and have been highly cited. We believe this paper will attract similar attention.

We believe our novel subject and approach has important methodological implications which should be of particular interest to your readership, in particular, but also all others involved in dealing with chronic illness. I am the corresponding author and looking forward to hearing your views in due course.

We suggest the following reviewers:

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Yours sincerely
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1. May C, Montori V, Mair F. We Need Minimally Disruptive Medicine. British