Author’s response to reviews

Title: Developing longitudinal qualitative designs: lessons learned and recommendations for health services research

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**Comment from Reviewer 1**

Many thanks to the authors for thoroughly addressing reviewer comments. I have one outstanding suggestion, considered a Major Compulsory Revision, because the reader needs to know a little bit more about how the issues were chosen and analyzed.

- Just prior to experience, state an overall goal or purpose of the paper

- move content currently under Our experience, to the first sub-section of Methods labelled Approach
  - elaborate on content currently under Methods by describing how issues were identified, ie. did each author come up with a short list and then common issues were addressed, or is the list a compilation of all issues, or did they further deliberate which issues from the compilation should be addressed...as a reader I want to know whether these represent all issues or just some, and if the latter why were these chosen, are they the most prevalent or the most problematic, etc.?
  - then briefly describe how each issue was analyzed, and how recommendations were generated, ie. through further discussion among investigators, through some kind of content analysis of the issues, etc.

**Response**

We have added this. A 'purpose' statement already existed under ‘Experience’, and we moved this as suggested, with expansion for clarity.

Done as suggested.

This is done in p.8 and we have elaborated more on the issues raised by the reviewer.