Author’s response to reviews

Title: Patient recruitment to a randomized clinical trial of behavioral therapy for chronic heart failure

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PDF covering letter
Dear Sir/Madame:

We thank the reviewer for the thorough review of the manuscript. We have responded to the reviewer’s comments as follows:

1. More details of the methods have been added to the abstract (under Methods heading) including where and how patients for the main trial and for the qualitative sub-study were recruited and how patients’ data were collected.

2. The write-up about how and where patients were recruited has been moved to ‘methods’ from ‘results’ in the abstract as suggested.

3. A new sub-section ‘Data Collection and Data Analysis’ has been added at the end of the ‘Methods’ section as suggested.

4. We have added the method that was used to collect reasons for non-participation in the beginning of the paragraph with the heading ‘Reasons for Refusing to Participate in the Study’ in the ‘Results’ section.

5. The font size of two sentences beginning ‘The education group …’ in the first paragraph of the methods section has been changed to be the same as the rest of the text.

6. Under the sub heading ‘Clinical Sites’ the phrase ‘by helping identifying potentially …’ has been changed to be ‘by helping to identify potentially …’ as suggested.

7. The original key to Table 2 has been deleted as suggested. A new key was used to explain the test for the p values added to the table as suggested (see point 12 below).

8. We have added discussion on comparing our findings with those from other studies (line 5, 2nd paragraph, p20; and line 5, last paragraph in the discussion section) to the discussion section. The suggested references have been added (#1, #15, #18).

9. The title of the manuscript has been changed to be ‘Patient recruitment to a randomized clinical trial of behavioral therapy for chronic heart failure’ as suggested.

10. The tern ‘VA clinics’ has been deleted from the text.

11. The diagram of patient recruitment (Figure 1) has been extended to include telephone recruitment as suggested.

12. The p values of all comparisons have been added to Tables 1 and 2 as suggested.
13. We have referred the suggested article in the discussion section (see point 8).

In addition to the above changes suggested by the reviewer, the section ‘Conclusions’ has been added to the manuscript following the instruction in the ‘Authors checklist for manuscript formatting’.

Thank you for the opportunity to revise the manuscript as suggested by the reviewer. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Bei-Hung Chang, Sc.D.