Author's response to reviews

Title: Putting Prevention into Practice: Barriers and Facilitating Factors Perceived by General Practitioners: Qualitative Study

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Mr. Piribauer, dear Mr. Litt,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript entitled: Putting Prevention into Practice: Barriers and Facilitating Factors Perceived by General Practitioners: Qualitative Study.

List of changes:
I. Abstract and background:
1. Updating the background and abstract sections
2. Introducing some of the articles recommended by the reviewers, e.g. Hudon, Kilbourne, Green
3. Adding a paragraph about the objectives of the original study and the main questions of the article
II. Methods:
1. Including detailed information about how the sample was generated
2. Including more information about the number of physicians identified, their specialties, how they were contacted, and how many finally participated
3. Adding a statement regarding ethical approval, in addition to information concerning consent and honorarium
4. Including more information about reason behind choosing the method of episodic interviewing
5. Adding detailed information about the pre-test regarding the interviewers, the number of participants, analysis and documentation of the results
6. Including detailed information about the structure of the interviews, the number of questions posed
7. Adding detailed information about the reliability of the data: interviews were conducted by 2 well-trained sociologists, socio-demographic data about the participants were collected in a questionnaire, documenting the contents of interviews (remarks, characteristics, special features), and a communicative validation of the data gathered was done

III. Results:
1. Including information about the number of interviews conducted and number complete interviews included
2. Adding more detailed socio-demographic data of the GPs (age, experience, specialties, further education)
3. Including only relevant quotes in this section
4. Improving the structure
5. Improving the framework for the identified factors in light of relevant literature recommended by the reviewers
6. Clarifying certain statements (see John Litt comment no. 5)

IV. Discussion:
1. Including further literature some of which was recommended by the reviewers such as Hudon, Kilbourne, Battista, Cabana, Cohen, Pham, Green, Piribauer (EUPHA, http://www.pico.at and Hofmarcher), Shea, and Hernsud
2. Discussing similarities and differences between our study and previous studies concerning the framework and findings
3. Including background information about the German health system reimbursing preventive offers and intervention (check-up 35, cancer screening, preventive care for elderly) as well as further information about offers and bonus-system in SHI companies
4. Discussing workload (number of patients per week, number of contacts annually) and time constrains in the German general practice in comparison to other countries
5. Adding background information concerning lack of offers and reimbursement for
systematic behavioral counseling by GPs in Germany
6. Discussing possible solutions, e.g. behavior modification for the GPs, reminder system, delegation of preventive interventions to a qualified medical staff, reimbursement and adding relevant literature
7. Adding a paragraph about the Austrian experience in this concern
8. Including a paragraph concerning the limitations of the study was added
9. Clarifying certain statements (see Franz Piribauer revision no. 6)
10. Conducting language corrections

Thank you for your time and effort. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Ulla Walter
Prof. Dr. phil.

Attachments:
Original manuscript