Author's response to reviews

Title: The UPBEAT depression and coronary heart disease programme: Using the UK Medical Research Council Framework to design a nurse-led complex intervention for use in primary care.

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Miss Bobier

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Family Practice. We are glad that you and the two reviewers found it interesting and useful. We agree that the changes suggested will improve the manuscript and have revised it accordingly:

Overall methods section (editorial comment, reviewer 1) – we have now reorganized the paper to provide an overall methods section with more detailed description of each study/phase of the study and of the participants. We have also (reviewer 1) included an overall findings section with summaries of the key findings of each data source.

Transparency around use of theory (editorial comment, reviewer 2) – We have now explained what is meant by ‘self management’ in terms of the intervention. We have also now provided more detail concerning how our approach is proposed to work, taking into account the mechanisms linking depression and CHD and the problems associated with depression identified by patients and clinicians in our empirical work (reviewer 1 and 2). The justification for inclusion of goal setting/behaviour change has also been expanded (reviewer 2).

As per comments by reviewer 1, we have also expanded our discussion of limitations, been more precise in reporting our qualitative findings and have added a definition for modeling.

Editorial requirements

– PRISMA, the published / reference paper reporting our systematic review was PRISMA compliant and we have now stated this here. PRISMA does not apply to the evidence review reported in this manuscript as this describes an iterative
process, but we have now added more detail concerning our approach.
- RATS - The study of clinicians is published in BMC Family practice and was deemed methodologically acceptable at the time of publication. The study of patients is under review by another journal so we are unable to quote too much detail here. However, we have now provided additional details of the 3 qualitative studies to ensure that their quality can be assessed using the RATS guidelines. We trust that our manuscript will now be acceptable to you and would be very grateful if you would consider its publication in BMC Family Practice.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Barley