Dear Prof Harm van Marwijk,

Thank you for the peer reviews regarding our manuscript (MS: 1353972119796843). We appreciate reviewer’s time, effort and commitment to the peer review process. Our response to her discrentional revisions can be found below.

Referee #1 (Karen Smith):

Background
1 paragraph 2 line 5 there is a closed brackets symbol that hasnt been deleted
AUTHOR RESPONSE: bracket was deleted

2 paragraph 3 as you mention ‘patients views on this matter’ at the outset, I feel it reads better losing 'on this issue' from line 3
AUTHOR RESPONSE: 'on this issue' was deleted

3 paragraph 4 - the newly inserted section beginning – “however the views of drug users .... - this section is good and addresses the point raised in the initial review; it could just do with a bit of rewording as it doesn’t read as well, and flow as well, as it could with the rest of the section - very minor changes would help it just stands out a little as an insert - not as well crafted as the rest of the paper.

AUTHOR RESPONSE: This section was reworded, as follows: “However, the views of drug users attending primary care are missing which further emphasizes a need for more research in this setting. It is likely that their experience may be different as they represent a high-risk group with special health-care needs and opinions [26]. For example, a qualitative study conducted in the secondary care illuminated how specific these needs could be. Problem drug users receiving methadone treatment in an addiction clinic reported that attitudes of healthcare providers were critical factors in engaging them with general medical and chronic care treatment, and also stressed the importance of various other forms of support and personal motivation [27, 28].”

Methods
4 Participants - paragraph 2 line 5 - I am not sure I understand ‘consecutive patients’ - could consecutive just be deleted

AUTHOR RESPONSE: consecutive was deleted

Discussion
5 last paragraph line 1 instead of 'on methadone' - on methadone treatment would read better and fits with the next sentence

AUTHOR RESPONSE: treatment was added

Conclusion
6 paragraph 1 line 3 I would lose the word 'topic' for me losing it leaves the sentence ending a little more forcefully this topic just seems like another topic in among many others

AUTHOR RESPONSE: topic was deleted

7 The final sentence of the conclusion - in response to a reviewers previous comment is a good addition, however, I personally prefer the wording in the sentence in the conclusion of the abstract. The wording, as it currently is in the text, just seems to spring this on you and end.
AUTHOR RESPONSE: the final sentence of conclusion was replaced with the conclusions from abstract, i.e. “The development of interventions which promote screening and brief interventions in practice are likely to benefit this at-risk group and further research and education, that help achieve this goal, are a priority. Strategies such as dissemination of clinical guidelines, educational videos, academic detailing and practice visits, should be explored.”

Thank you for considering this re-revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Jan Klimas, on behalf of the author team
University of Limerick, and
UCD School of Medicine, Ireland
25/06/2013