Author's response to reviews

Title: Unmet needs of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): are we listening? A qualitative study on patients and doctors.

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8th May 2013

Dear Ms Eloisa Nolasco and the editorial board of BioMed Central Family Practice,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript: ‘Unmet needs of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): are we listening? A qualitative study on patients and doctors’ by Stalia SL Wong, Nurdiana Abdullah, Adina Abdullah, Su-May Liew, Siew-Mooi Ching, Ee-Ming Khoo, Moyez Jiwa and Yook-Chin Chia.

We have made changes to the manuscript according to the editorial requests and comments as below:

1. The full name of the ethics committee that approved our study is stated on page 4 of the revised manuscript.

2. We have removed tables 1 and 2 and have merged the data on participants biodemographics in the results section on pages 6 and 7 of the revised manuscript.

3. We have revised the methods section with more details added to comply with RATS reporting guidelines. Please refer to the subheadings ‘sample and data collection’, ‘focus group discussion’ and ‘analysis’ in the methods section on pages 4, 5 and 6 of the revised manuscript.

4. The revised manuscript has been formatted according to the template provided at http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals.
5. On the title page, we have formatted the authors’ names according to the journal style of writing the first names and surnames.

All co-authors have seen and agreed with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is not under review at any other publication.

In this manuscript, we report a qualitative exploration among doctors and COPD patients the perceived needs of COPD patients relating to their daily lifestyle, management and adaptation towards the disease. We found that knowledge of COPD is generally poor among the patients and neither the patients nor doctors favoured self-management approaches in management of COPD. As there is a lack of literature looking into the needs of COPD patients and especially self-management of COPD conducted in Asian countries we hope to contribute towards a better understanding of this topic.

We believe that our findings could be of interest to the readers of BMC Family Practice especially family physicians, respiratory physicians and other health care providers managing COPD patients. This study offers an insight on the unmet needs and the utility of self-management among COPD patients of Asian background which is much influenced by cultural factors and beliefs. This information is useful when dealing with COPD patients of Asian origin or Asian migrants. We hope that the editorial board and the reviewers will agree on the interest of this study.

We also hope the changes we made satisfactorily conforms to the requirements of the editorial board.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Nurdiana Abdullah on behalf of the authors,
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