Author's response to reviews

Title: Exploring men's and women's experiences of depression and engagement with health professionals: more similarities than differences? A qualitative interview study

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Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2007

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Dear Dr Le Good

MS: 6152157961259968 (Emslie, Ridge, Ziebland, Hunt)

Thank you for sending us the referees' second set of comments on our manuscript. As requested, we have revised our paper in accordance with the comments made by reviewer 1.

We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Carol Emslie (on behalf of all authors)

RESPONSE TO REFEREES' COMMENTS

REFEREE 1

This referee asks that we 'clearly lay out the sex/gender distinction near the beginning of the paper and explain how the terms are being used'. We appreciate that we had not been explicit about the language we have chosen to use and, as requested, we have added a new section to the introduction (shown in bold in the manuscript on pages 7 to 8). We have set out the sex /gender distinction, popularised in the 1970s, and then explained why we have chosen not to follow this distinction, given that it is now widely recognised as problematic. We acknowledge that language in this area is contested and have explained why we have chosen to use the term 'gender' throughout the article.

REFEREE 2

No further comments from this referee.

REFEREE 3
No further comments from this referee.