Author's response to reviews

Title: Multimorbidity in younger deprived patients: an exploratory study of research and service implications in general practice

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Author's response to reviews:

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Dear editor,

Thank you for accepting this paper for publication. We have made the following revisions based on the comments of reviewer 2.

1. Title

Old version:
The impact of multimorbidity on younger deprived patients: an exploratory study of research and service implications in general practice

Potential new version:
Multimorbidity in younger deprived patients: an exploratory study of research and service implications in general practice

2. Introduction: needs to be streamlined to clarify the goals of the investigation and be congruent with the results

Old version:
This paper presents results from an exploratory study of multimorbidity in two general practices in deprived settings in Dublin designed to inform a larger study of an intervention to improve outcomes in patients with multimorbidity. We aimed to assess the feasibility of identifying younger individuals with multimorbidity in service general practices. In an effort to identify the sub-group of patients with more complex health needs we included patients with three or more chronic conditions. In addition we aimed to explore the effect of multimorbidity on the type and volume of health care delivered using individuals with a single chronic condition as a comparator. We also aimed to identify and describe the barriers encountered in conducting research into multimorbidity in primary care settings.

New version:
This paper presents results from an exploratory study of multimorbidity in two general practices in deprived settings in Dublin designed to inform a larger study of an intervention to improve outcomes in patients with multimorbidity. For this exploratory study we focused on younger patients with multimorbidity, specifically those with more complex health needs having three or more chronic conditions. We aimed to document the health services provided to these patients compared to individuals with a single chronic condition. We also aimed to identify and describe the barriers encountered in conducting research into multimorbidity in primary care settings.