Author's response to reviews

Title: Multi-centre parallel arm randomised controlled trial to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a group-based cognitive behavioural approach to managing fatigue in people with multiple sclerosis.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Please find below a breakdown of changes made to the manuscript.

Formatting changes to be made:
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Major revisions (we require the author to make these changes)

Abstract: please ensure that the Abstract is present in manuscript and matches exactly what is in the submission system. At present the trial registration number is not present in the submission system.
- This change has been made.

Structure: this manuscript does not have the correct structure. Please reformat it to use these headings: Abstract; Background; Methods/Design; Discussion; Abbreviations (if any); Competing interests; Authors' contributions; Authors' information (optional); Acknowledgements (optional); References
- This change has been made.

Authors' contributions: Please indicate that all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

References: Please make sure references are cited in numerical order. We notice reference 22 is not cited within the main text. Please make sure references continue to be cited in numerical order once this reference is cited.
- This omission has been corrected

Minor revisions (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)

Placement text: please remove all figure and table placement text from the text.
- This has been done.

Tables- please remove the visible vertical lines from your tables
- This has been done.

Figures: It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures

Figures: The image file should not include the title (e.g. Figure 1... etc.) or figure number. The legend and title should be part of the manuscript file after the reference list. The figures are numbered automatically in the order in which they are uploaded.
- The title has been removed from the figure.

Typography: Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions. This is the final proofing stage for your manuscript, and you will not be able to make any changes after acceptance.
The following additional changes have been made:

1. Pg. 3 Sentence re-written for greater clarity; see below:
Outcomes in those receiving the fatigue management intervention will be measured 1 week prior
to, and 1, 4 and 12 months after the intervention (and at equivalent times in those receiving
current local practice).

2. Pg. 8 The sentence below has been added:
The trial design is summarised in Figure 1.

3. Pg. 8 The word encountered has been added for greater clarity:
“Any changes made and barriers to change encountered”

4. Pg. 10 The sentence has been changed for greater clarity, as follows:
“If someone becomes emotionally upset or unwell during a session,“

5. Pg. 10 ‘ID’ has been changed to ‘identification number’

6. Pg. 12 The word extended has been removed for greater clarity:
“This self-administered…..”

7. Pg. 12 order or acronym and scale name changed for greater clarity and ‘eight- level’ and (0=
normal to 8 = bedridden) removed
…..Patient-Determined Disease Steps (PDDS) scale

8. Pg. 12 Acronym for EDSS explained
and for the telephone Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS)

9. Pg. 15 The phrase “from a centre has been added” to clarify the stratification by centre:
“Once a block of participants from a centre…..”

10. Pg. 15 ID numbers replaced by identification numbers
……identification numbers will be sent to the statistician who will randomly allocate half

11. Pg. 16 Version 1 has been removed from the description of the MSIS-29

12. Pg. 17 The acronym MSSE has been added:
“is adapted from the Control subscale of the MS Self-Efficacy (MSSE) Scale developed”

13. Pg. 17 The position of MSE-FSE has been changed.
“the Multiple Sclerosis-Fatigue Self-Efficacy (MSE-FSE) scale

14. Pg. 18 An error has been corrected EuroQOL has been changed to EuroQoL
15. Pg. 18 regarding the SF-36 an error has been corrected as follows:

“It uses a combination of dichotomous and Likert-type response scales” has been changed to

“It uses Likert-type response scales…”

15. Pg. 20 The word management has been added for clarity

“The group-based fatigue management intervention”

16. Pg. 21 This sentence has been added:

A summary of programme content is presented in Table 1.

17. Pg. 23 Sentence modified for greater clarity

This analysis will exclude participants who attend fewer than four sessions of the fatigue management programme.

18. Pg. 25 hyphen added to multilevel and spaces removed from either side of hyphen

“multi-level/mixed models”

19. Pg. 29 MREC acronym explained

…….serious adverse events will be reported to the Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee (MREC) within 15 days by the Chief Investigator.

20. Pg. 29 ‘Self-efficacy’ has been added to the first sentence in the discussion

21. Pg. 31 Space added after first reference numeration for consistency

1. Compston

22. Pg. 39 reference number 54 corrected as below:


24. In manuscript ‘1 year follow up’ replaced by ‘12-month follow’ up for consistency. Also 4-month follow-up and 12-month follow-up used consistently