Author's response to reviews

Title: Responses to gestational weight management guidance: a thematic analysis of comments made by women in online parenting forums

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Janelyn Ann Cruz,

Thank you for your constructive comments from the reviewers. We have read them all and altered the manuscript accordingly. Below there are point by point amendments in response to the comments. Requested revisions are in blue, our response is in black, new text is underlined and deleted text has a line through it.

Point by point amendments to:
Responses to gestational weight management guidance: a thematic analysis of comments made by women in online parenting forums

Minor essential revisions
Materials and methods
1. Page 6, lines 3 and 4. You mention that the posts, in addition to women, included a journalist, moderator and health professionals. Can you please clarify if these comments were included or excluded in the data analysis?
We have added in to make it clearer Responses from all types of posters were included in the data analysis, however all the quotations presented in the results section were from women, who made the vast majority of responses.

Results
1. Could you please attribute quotes to the pseudonyms or other non-identifiable nomenclature as is consistent with descriptive qualitative research?
The pseudonyms have now been inserted. The ‘Data collection’ section has been slightly updated to explain the codes used.
All identifying characteristics were removed from the posts and usernames replaced with pseudonyms such as F3B10, which represents forum 3, thread B, poster 10.
4. Page 10 line 27. I wonder whether the comments regarding the consistency of comments with research should be included in the discussion rather than the results? We have deleted the sentence here as it included in the discussion. Consistent with research showing that individuals rely on direct experiences and anecdotal stories to inform personal risk perceptions [15]
5. Page 12 line 24. You have used this quote previously on page 10. Is there another that could be substituted here?
We have deleted the section of the quotation 'I raised the topic once and was advised that they no longer commented on weight unless there were actual and immediate health problems caused by it, as it only made women feel bad about themselves and during pregnancy was not the time to deal with it.' from the first place where the point is more about reassuring other women everything will be fine and replaced it with .... as it was in the middle of a long quote but the first and last parts are relevant.
We have kept it in on page 12 as it is more relevant to staff not wanting to upset women.

Discussion
1. Page 15 paragraph 3. In your introduction you make the excellent point about health professionals not having the confidence to undertake this type of counselling. I wonder if this could be explored in addition to the stigma.
In light of your comment, the last sentence of this paragraph has now been extended to capture both stigma and confidence.
Thus there is a significant need to address both obesity stigma and skills and confidence in providing weight management advice to overweight pregnant women amongst health professionals.

Minor issues not for publication

Results
1. Within the quotes could you please review for consistency?
We appreciate this point made by the reviewer however due to the informal nature of parenting forums (unconventional unique methodology) the language was quite informal reflecting their individual writing styles. The lack of consistency, poor sentence structure, grammar and use of abbreviations such as won't is a direct reflection of the language used in the posts, however we have considered your point and corrected them for consistency.

For example Page 7 line 13 uses an ampersand but in the next quote is written 'and'.
The ampersand from page 7 line 13 quotation was how it appeared in the post but has now been changed to 'and' in order to maintain consistency.
For example numerals are written in different formats e.g. page 8 line 14 '9' and line 15 'one'.
This was taken directly from the quotations so the first poster used 9 and 5 and the second poster used 'one'. We have changed the 'one' to '1' for consistency.
2. Page 8 line 6 wont?  This has now been corrected to won't.
3. Page 13 line 16. flippin This word has now been removed.

Discussion
1. Page 15 line 15. General Practitioners to general practitioners to be consistent with your other health professionals (lines 22 and 23). This has now been corrected to general practitioners.

We have redrafted the title page, and moved the acknowledgements section and double checked the referencing formatting to match your style guide.

We hope this meets your satisfaction and look forward to hearing back from you.

Best wishes

Dr Maddy Arden, Mrs Alexandra Duxbury and Professor Hora Soltani