Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Knowledge and information needs of young people with epilepsy and their parents: Mixed Method systematic review

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief

RE: Knowledge and information needs of young people with epilepsy and their parents: Mixed Method systematic review

Your reference: Manuscript ID 1583456419451583

I would be honoured if you would accept this mixed method systematic review for online publication. This work is not under any consideration by any other journal at this time. I am an Epilepsy Nurse Specialist employed by the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool working full-time to provide an epilepsy service for people over the age of 16 years in North Wales. I am also registered with the University of Wales in Bangor conducting a PhD in Health Sciences (part time) under the supervision of Professor Jane Noyes (second author).

This mixed method systematic review was conducted prior to undertaking further research into the transition of young people with epilepsy from children’s to adult services. Ethical approval for the PhD study was obtained from the North East Wales Local Research Ethics Committee (LREC) on the 28th September 2006. I have not received any external funding to conduct this research. The Walton Centre allowed me set up a Research Fund managed by the financial Department. I generated funds to pay the University fees and additional costs through teaching medical and non-medical staff about epilepsy since 2006.

The third author Dr Stephen Mackereth is a Community Paediatrician in North Wales and has an interest in young people with epilepsy. We both conducted the quality appraisal of the research studies included and excluded within the systematic review. He also took part in subsequent focus groups with young people with epilepsy. I have observed the transition (or transfer) of young people with epilepsy from children’s to adult services for nearly 10 years. Living in Wales I provide a bilingual service and the subsequent research has been conducted according to the language the young people and their parents were most comfortable with. This mixed method systematic is an introduction to a bigger research study. I hope that you will accept it for on-line publication.

Yours sincerely
Sheila Lewis
Epilepsy Nurse Specialist
Additional note: I will be on annual leave until the 3rd of October 2010