Author's response to reviews

Title: Enhanced Physical Health Screening for People with Severe Mental Illness in Hong Kong

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: Enhanced Physical Health Screening for People with Severe Mental Illness in Hong Kong

Please consider our research paper for inclusion in your journal. This paper reports the results of a 12 month quasi-experimental study which aimed to establish the utility of integrating an enhanced physical health screening programme into routine clinical practice in Hong Kong. To our knowledge this is the first such study to be conducted in an Asian clinical setting; the results are promising and provide sufficient evidence to suggest future studies should be conducted utilising a randomised controlled trial design in order to more confidently attribute improvements in well-being and health behaviours to the screening programme. The baseline data from this study were utilised to estimate the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in this population and the paper was recently published in *BMC Psychiatry* (Bressington, D, Mui, J., Cheung, E., Petch, J. Clark, A., & Gray, R.; 2013). Given that the first paper has been accessed on over 900 occasions, we believe that this paper should also be published as it makes a unique contribution towards knowledge in this area and as is likely to be of interest to the journal’s readers.

I confirm that this manuscript has not been previously published and it is not presently under consideration for inclusion in any media. I can also confirm that all authors have approved the final article and acknowledge that all those entitled to authorship are listed as authors.

The protocol for the research project has been approved by the Hong Kong NTW Cluster Clinical and Research Ethics Committee and conforms to the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki in 1995 (as revised in Edinburgh 2000). All participants involved in the study provided written informed consent and patient anonymity is preserved.

In terms of individual author’s contributions towards the project:
Dan Bressington was the project lead, designed the study, contributed towards data input, jointly analysed data, interpreted the data analysis and was lead for the writing of the article. Jolene Mui was the lead for data collection, contributed towards the study design and commented on the final paper. Richard Gray provided advice on study design, delivered the training, advised on data analysis and contributed towards the final paper. Eric Cheung provided advice on study design, advised on data analysis/interpretation and contributed towards the final paper. Steve Bradford jointly input data, helped interpret the data analysis and contributed to the final paper. Sabina Hulbert provided statistical advice on the data analysis strategy, jointly analysed data and approved the final paper.

I confirm that all authors are aware of the journal policy on conflict of interest and declare the following potential conflicts of interest:

Professor Richard Gray has received honoraria and provided consultancy to AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen Cilag, Eli Lilly and Co. Otsuka Pharmaceutical Europe Ltd, Pfizer, received honoraria from AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen Cilag, Eli Lilly and Co. Otsuka Pharmaceutical Europe Ltd, Lundbeck, Pfizer, Wyeth and had research funding from AstraZeneca, the Medical Research Council, the National Institute for Mental Health, the Department of Health, Comic Relief. Dan Bressington has received honorarium payments for educational work from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lundbeck and Janssen-Cilag. The other authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.

The study was not funded by any external body.

I look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Dan Bressington