Author's response to reviews

Title: The perception of primary health care professionals about education in diabetes mellitus, Brazil

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THE PERCEPTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ABOUT EDUCATION IN DIABETES MELITUS, BRAZIL

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Were added to the text of the suggestions of the reviewers, as shown below.

1-Therefore, in order to design the diabetes education process, primary health care professionals and university academics involved with primary health care practice faced the need to know the educational activities of the service as well as the outcomes for individual patients, and this is the main question of the study.

2- Data collection was performed using the focus group technique: group dynamics, convenience, non-sensitive topics and by requesting the completion of an identification card of professionals using specific instruments. The focal group with 10 to 12 participants, i.e., one type of interview or conversation in homogeneous groups, planned to obtained information regarding a specific theme [9,10]. The objective of the focus group was to know the educational practice and the factors that act as barriers or facilitators in teaching diabetes self-management.

3- The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee at Minas Gerais Federal University and the Belo Horizonte Municipal Health Department, and was in compliance with all the requirements established by the Brazilian National Health Committee Norm 196/96.

4- The findings in the literature[12,13] show that the level of knowledge acquired by individuals with diabetes is correlated with the professionals’ ability to listen and their capacity for memorization, which are managed by formal principles – for instance, the doctor makes a question and the patient answers it. Patients are rarely placed in a
position where they can ask about the treatment and their experiences, compare and analyze experiences, or state their own knowledge about health education.

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