Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of using group visit model to support diabetes patient self-management in rural communities of Shanghai: a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To Whom It May Concern,

We are pleased to re-submit our manuscript entitled “Effectiveness of using group visit model to support diabetes patient self-management in rural communities of Shanghai: a randomized controlled trial” for publication in BMC Public Health. We would like to thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. We have provided a response to each of the issues identified, and have highlighted the changes in yellow in the manuscript. We would be happy to make any additional revisions that may be necessary.

REVIEWER 2

1-Clarification is required regarding the frequency that participants made action plans. In the section Topics of the group self-management education, the sentence reads: “Action plans are designed for one week in lay-led self-management education programs, but this strategy was modified for each participant to make a weekly action plan for one month (four weeks) in this study.” This needs further clarification:

a) Does it mean that in the three month study (12 weeks) that weekly action plan took place for only one month; or

b) Did participants make weekly action plans for the whole 12 weeks as suggested in the section entitled Implementation of the Chinese diabetes group visit program?

Thank you for this important question. This study examined the effect of a 12-month-long diabetes group visit program from June 2007 to May 2008, as described in the section entitled ‘The Chinese diabetes group visit program design and development process’ and the section entitled ‘Implementation of the Chinese diabetes group visit program’. The intervention group met every month and received 12 monthly group visit sessions over a 12-month period. At each monthly group visit session, each participant made a weekly action plan for the coming month (four weeks). In total, each participant made 12 weekly action plans over the 12-month intervention period.

We have clarified the frequency that participants made action plans in the section ‘Topics of the group self-management education’ by adding a sentence: “In total, each participant made 12 weekly action plans over the whole 12-month intervention period”.

2- The second concern is the clarification of what took place in the 60 minute one-on-one visit with the health provider at the end of the group session. It indicates “further self-management support”. Again, this needs clarification. As well, how many of these subjects in the experimental group received this additional one-hour intervention?
We have added additional information regarding further self-management support and how many of the subjects in the intervention group received this additional self-management support during the 60 minute one-on-one visit with health care provider at the end of the group session. Please see the last two sentences in the section ‘Topics of the group self-management education’.

ADDITIONAL EDITORIAL REQUIREMENT:

1- Please remove the 'Objective' heading in the abstract and merge its content with the Abstract/Background.

We have removed the 'Objective' heading in the abstract and merge its content with the Abstract/Background.

On behalf of our co-authors, I would like to thank you for considering our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Shengsheng Liu and Dongbo Fu