Author's response to reviews

Title: Pre-pregnancy care for women with pre-gestational diabetes mellitus: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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

We would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments. Below is a point-to-point reply to their reviews.

Reviewer Helen Barrett:

1. Language eliciting by professional editor was done for the manuscript.
2. Paragraph 5 in the discussion re-written (highlighted in yellow).
3. Paragraph 6 re-written and more information and explanation given.
4. Paragraph 7 re-written and more information and explanation given.
5. Paragraph 8 shorter sentences used.
7. Figure 4 and 5 improved and the title spelling mistake corrected.
8. The two included studies did not report on mild hypoglycemia, both studies considered only severe hypoglycemia as an adverse outcome to the PCC, and the definition of severe hypoglycemia was similar in the two studies.

Reviewer: Danielle Mazza

1. Preconception care is defined in detailed on page 3 (Type of intervention). The subjects for the systematic review are defined on the title and on page 3 (Type of participants). Both definitions are pre-requisite for conducting a systematic review. (Highlighted in yellow).
2. The phrase (for prevention of congenital malformations) removed from the title.
3. Language eliciting by professional editor was done for the manuscript. The authors expanded on the significance of hypoglycemia associated with PCC (highlighted in yellow on the discussion section)
4. The authors are quite aware of the Cochrane reviews published by Tieu es al and Whitworth el at. Both reviews did not reach conclusions about the effectiveness of the PCC due to lack of RCTs on PCC, hence they did not support or refute the effectiveness of PCC in improving the outcomes of pregnancy that is why we did not refer to them.

Additional requirements:

1. The Moose checklist has been uploaded as Appendix 3
2. Figures’ titles and legends have been removed and added to the main manuscript after the references list and figure were formatted as required by the journal.