Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessing the Construct Validity and Reliability of the Parental Perceptions on Antibiotics (PAPA) Scales

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear,

We appreciate your valuable constructive comments. Here is a detailed report of our responses to these comments.

We agree with the reviewer’s comments about the 6th factor. We perhaps didn’t sufficiently justify the exclusion of the parental perception of doctors prescribing behaviour (PPD) sub scale from the PAPA. We have now provided more detail in the methods section (final paragraph in the measures section) outlining our logic in excluding the PPD sub scale, providing both a theoretical, and empirical justification. And a paragraph has been added in the discussion section as well.

The paragraph in methods section is: “The Parents’ perception regarding doctors’ prescribing behaviors’ (PPD) was also initially included in the instrument. This factor was initially included to measure how parents perceived the prescribing behavior of the doctor (e.g. Insufficiently forthcming with a prescription for antibiotics). The PPD factor had sufficiently high loadings in the EFA analysis to warrant it's consideration in the CFA [33]. However, in our initial CFA (the six factor instrument), the PPD items loaded somewhat lower than in the EFA, although they were still statistically significant (p<0.001). The main difficulty presented in the initial six-factor measurement model was that PPD factor was not associated with any of other factor in the measurement model. This implies the original six-factor instrument may be too broad in it's specification, and this is reflected by the lack of fit of the six-factor model (raw #2= 3442.63, df= 579, p<0.001; #2/df = 5.946; GFI= 0.839; RSMEA= 0.067). Exclusion of the PPD items from the PAPA instrument substantially improved the model fit (see details in results section) so it was decided that a five-factor model (excluding PPD) might represent a more appropriately scoped model to measure parental perceptions about antibiotics.”

The paragraph in discussion section is: “Our initial inclusion of a subscale to
measure parental perceptions regarding doctors prescribing behaviour was revealed to have no place in the PAPA instrument. We still believe this is an important aspect to parental use/misuse of antibiotic in their children, but it may need to be measured separately.”

We agree to the reviewers comment about the readability. We reviewed the manuscript thoroughly and minor editorial/typographical changes have been made accordingly.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication at your respected journal.

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