Author's response to reviews

Title: Listening to patients: Verbal data in the pretesting of ICF based measure of Osteoarthritis health outcomes

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Dear Editor,

Pleased find submitted the manuscript entitled:

“Listening to patients: Verbal data in the pretesting of ICF based measure of Osteoarthritis health outcomes”

The submitted paper concerns a cognitive interviewing study to evaluate the face validity of the self-administered Aberdeen Measures of Impairment, Activity Limitation and Participation Restriction (Ab-IAP). The Ab-IAP were developed to reflect the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) definitions of these three components, as previous work demonstrated that existing osteoarthritis health outcome measures mixed up these components.

The study employed the concurrent ‘think aloud’ design to examine how osteoarthritis patients interpreted the self-completion Ab-IAP. The data was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The quantitative analysis supported previous statistical item analysis and illustrated how ‘think aloud’ methods can compliment traditional statistical methods for item reduction and how the use of both methods may advance measurement development. The qualitative analysis highlighted many important issues that should be taken into account when constructing questionnaire items for people with osteoarthritis and also draws attention to fundamental problems that may be relevant to all health outcome measures.

I look forward to hearing from you with respect to the progress of this submission.

Kind regards

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