Author’s response to reviews

Title: Who chooses prepaid dental care? - A baseline report of a prospective observational study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
BioMedCentral/Oral Health
Executive Editor, and Editorial Team

Dear Editor of BMC Oral Health,

We would like to thank you and the two referees for the effort to help us to improve the quality of the manuscript "Who chooses prepaid dental care? - A baseline report of a prospective observational study".

Our addressing of the suggested improvements are listed below:

Referee 1:

1. line 2: The authors may consider an alternative subtitle: "- A baseline report of a prospective observational...", since this is, as far as I can interpret, strictly speaking a first report in a series of reports of a longitudinal study.
   - We acknowledge Dr Axtelius’ interpretation, and change the title into the given handy suggestion.

2. line 56: omit "of"
   - Omitted.

3. line 90: the phrase "higher than average" could be compared with the same phrase, hyphenated as "higher-than-average", on line 297 - see below remark 7.
   - According to grammar instructions, the right choice would be as hyphenated. Completed.

4. line 94: new paragraph should be inserted by inserting blank line above.
   - Blank line inserted.
5. line 103: consider rewriting the phrase by omitting some commas, resulting in e.g. the phrase "...insurance are, however, sparse and when available, most often..."
   - Two commas excluded.

6. line 110: new paragraph should be inserted by inserting blank line above.
   - The two separated text parts are merged into one paragraph, instead of inserting a blank line

7. line 242: the frequencies for respondents in the two payment groups in the text can be extracted from table 1. However, the authors may consider giving the frequencies also in the text, beginning e.g. in the first part of the Result section.
   - Frequencies for age and gender of the respondents in the two payment groups are now displayed in the text as follows:
     “The patients who chose to prepay differed statistically significantly from those who chose to pay traditionally; for instance, by being younger (mean age 34.9 yrs and 43.1 yrs, respectively), and more often female (56 % and 51%, respectively).”

8. line 297: blank space between "than" and "average" should be omitted in case hyphens are retained. See also remark 3.
   - Please return to remark 3. Blank space omitted.

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**Referee 2:**

Line 267: revise: as that their still being; replace with "As that there are".
   - We refer to our language consultant and the wish to keep the word "still", when arguing for the choice of "still being", instead of the proposed alternative "as that there are".

275: This study of answers - replace with responses
   - "Responses" is more appropriate than "answers". Thank you for making us aware.

277: consider responses
   - "Responses" is considered, and chosen.

Line 320: [23] add the following references;
- We thank Dr Wood for drawing our attention to his work. We agreed on adding the paper “The role of payments systems..” to the reference list since it describes well the theoretical rationale of effects of the different payment systems on behaviour, but concluded that the additional two papers concerned effects of local policy changes, less relevant for the scope of our manuscript.

  - We considered the reference “The role of payments systems..” as well suited in the first part of the discussion section, where theoretical models are described. However, in the latter part of the section, where we aimed to refer to detected effects from payment systems on type of provided treatment in practice, rather than in theory, the suggestion to add the same reference is in our view less appropriate.
Line 350: consider revising - is fairly good agreement - positive association
  - Good point, exchanged for ”approximate”.

Further, we have pursued a thorough language editing, in order to improve the language, as well as to make the manuscript more readable.

We hope that the Editorial Board and the reviewers will find our improvements satisfactory, and the manuscript now eligible for publication in BMC Oral Health.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Andrén Andås
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