Author's response to reviews

Title: The study protocol of: 'Initiating end of life care in stroke: Clinical decision-making around prognosis'

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

BMC Palliative Care

Re: MS: 1240625091150523
The study protocol of: 'Initiating end of life care in stroke: Clinical decision-making around prognosis'

Further to your email of the 22nd November, I am pleased to supply the following information.

1. The study is funded by Marie Curie Cancer Care. Phase 1 of the study was reviewed by North Wales Research Ethics Committee (West) (Reference 13/WA/0086). As Phase 2 does not involve patients, NHS research ethics was not required. Consequently, ethical approval for this phase of the study was provided by Bangor University Research Ethics Committee. Copies of the funding and ethical approval correspondence have been emailed as requested.

2. Approval for funding by Marie Curie Cancer Care included a peer review of applications received through open competition. Copies of the referees’ comments, and our response to them, have also been forwarded as above. I have been asked to alert that the referee’s comments are noted as ‘In Confidence’.

3. Phase 1 of the study is near completion, and phase 2 is now running in one of the participating sites.

4. There are no published articles related to this study.

In relation to other queries, I can confirm that only the proposal for funding was peer reviewed by Marie Curie Cancer Care. The authors have no competing interests to declare, and the required statement is included in the revised manuscript Changes to the submitted manuscript are highlighted in yellow. With regards to sample size; this is specified for Phase 1 on page 9 of the manuscript, and for Phase 2 on page 14.
Finally, we would like our protocol to be considered for publication in BMC Palliative Care; many apologies for the misdirection on the first cover letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any further clarification or information is required.

Yours sincerely

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