Author's response to reviews

Title: Complementary and alternative medical therapies for Chronic Low Back Pain: What Treatments are Surveyed Patients Willing to Try?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Matt Hodgkinson:

We have now completed the revisions requested for our manuscript, entitled “Complementary and alternative medical therapies for chronic low back pain: What treatments are patients willing to try?” (MS Number 1298154837313771). Please note that Dr. Refshauge had no requested revisions to this version of the manuscript. Below we have responded to each of the formatting and other changes requested by you.

Title Page: We have removed all unnecessary capitalization in the title, from both the manuscript file and the submission system and deleted the word “surveyed” from the title. We have removed the authors’ qualifications (e.g. PhD) from the title page. We now list the e-mail addresses on the title page separately from the author list and affiliations. We have removed the running title from the title page.

Section Headings: We have removed any unnecessary capitalisation in the section headings.

We will ensure that the Abstract in the submission system matches exactly that in the manuscript file.

In the section of the methods entitled “Survey Questionnaire”, we now state that general definitions of each therapy were provided only for respondents who informed the interviewers they did not know what a particular therapy was. We then indicate how we defined each therapy (these are the four sentences just before the last sentence of Survey Questionnaire section of the methods).

In the discussion section on page 15, line 6 of the last paragraph, we have now included a space before reference 12.

We have added a brief Conclusions section after the Discussion.

We have deleted the “and” and the unneeded full-stops in the author lists of each citation in the Reference section.

We have now reformatted the tables as requested. Specifically, we have now added visible black lines to the border of each table and have removed any extraneous lines or boxes. We have also put the tables in the portrait format.
Finally, we have improved the interpretation of Table 4. At the end of the statistics section, we indicate that Table 4 presents the odds ratios describing those significant associations for each of the 28 therapy-specific dependent variables. In addition, we have added a footnote to the table, where we repeat this information and also give an example showing that having tried acupuncture is the only variable associated with high knowledge of acupuncture in our data set.

We believe we have made all requested changes in formatting and content, but we would be happy to make additional changes if we have inadvertently left something out.

Sincerely,

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On behalf of all the authors of this manuscript.