Author's response to reviews

Title: Changes in Use of Herbs and Dietary Supplements (HDS) Among Clinicians Enrolled in an Online Curriculum

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors:

We appreciate the thoughtful and prompt reviews of our paper.

Response to Major Compulsory Revisions from Tannis Jurgens (TJ): None
Response to Major Compulsory Revisions from Yuri Clement (TC):
  • Details on the nature and content of the course have been provided in the background and references are given to earlier manuscripts describing the course in detail.
  • Additional information is provided in the background on why we thought clinicians’ own use of HDS might be influenced by course content (e.g., they may wish to enhance their own health or address their own health problems)
  • We have included appendices listing the questions used to assess confidence and communication practices

Response to Minor Essential Revisions:
  • In Background, “rates of use also vary” has been changed to “rates of use have been shown to vary” as suggested by TJ.
  • The term “health care professionals” has been replaced by “clinicians” throughout the text to enhance consistency as suggested by YC.
  • The last two paragraphs of the Background have been revised to indicate more clearly the rationale for the study.
  • As noted above, the scales are now included in the Appendix. We have clarified in the Methods section that the Confidence and Communication scales had Cronbach’s alpha >0.7, as suggested by TJ.
  • In the second paragraph of the Methods section, we deleted the sentence starting “We expected” since this was explained in the Background section, as suggested by TJ.
  • In the first paragraph of the Results section, the word “Higher” now precedes “baseline use” as suggested by TJ.
  • We have deleted the confusing note in the last sentence in Results regarding multiple comparisons.
  • As suggested by TJ, we have moved the comment about fish oil from Results to Discussion.

Response to discretionary revisions:
  • As suggested by TJ, we have revised the last sentence of the Background section to reflect a neutral study question “changes in communication practices” rather than “improvements” in communication practices.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

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