Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluating complex health interventions: a critical analysis of the 'outcomes' concept

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Revision of manuscript in reply to editorial comments and to reviewers Long and Ostermann:

We appreciate the comments and have made the following changes:

**Reviewer: Long**
- We have changed the grammatical issue on p.14
- On page 18 we have included his suggested reference for logic modeling
- We have discussed this reviewer’s thoughtful comments on the CMO framework, and have decided to delete the reference to this framework, as including it would require a substantial amount of explanation (as Professor Long explains). We felt this would take away from the main flow of the discussion.

**Reviewer: Ostermann**
- We have again discussed the table that this reviewer suggests, but still believe that to do justice to such a table would require a methodology review rather than a critical analysis.

**Editorial Comments**
- The abstract now follows the Background, Discussion and Summary Structure.
- The body of the text follows this structure as well.
- All headings and subheadings use sentence case.
- Table and figure placement text is removed
- Figure 1 has been re-created and now includes labels for the X and Y axes
- Figure 1 and 2 have both been re-done to minimize white space according to BMC guidelines.
- All references have been revised to follow the guideline to use abbreviated titles rather than full journal titles
- Wherever we used ‘et al’ in the references we have now included all authors’ names
- We noticed a discrepancy in the use of subheading (some used a number, others did not, in some places we used 3 levels, in others we did not). This has been revised.
- Boxes 1-3 have been reformatted to ensure it follows the correct format in terms of title, font and references included in these boxes.