Author's response to reviews

Title: Help seeking behaviour among prisoners in Norway

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Thank you for your letter of August 13th with the constructive comments from the reviewer concerning our manuscript 8508563835585143 entitled “Help seeking behaviour among prisoners in Norway”. A revision of the manuscript has been performed and our point-to-point response is listed below:

Editorial comments:

We have followed the guidelines for BMC Health Services Research in presenting the manuscript. Regarding the editorial comment about the questionnaire: This study is based on a comprehensive questionnaire, regarding both prisoners’ help seeking behavior, self-reported health and health services’ experiences. In the present study we have used information from only parts of the questionnaire. We believe that it may be confusing for the reader to get the whole questionnaire. However, we have written in the text that the questionnaire is available by request to the first author. Furthermore, we have given a more thorough description of the items used in the Methods section.

Reviewer’s comments:

Comment 1: “Hypotheses are missing”

Response: We have now included hypotheses in the manuscript under the heading “Independent variables”.

Comment 2: “Authors hypothesize that attenuation of mental health problems in the adjusted vs unadjusted analyses may be due to the fact that sleep problems are easier to seek help for than mental health problems. If so one should expect a clear association between sleep disorders and mental health problems. The authors should analyse this association and report these data in the result section”

Response: The association between sleep problems and mental and physical health problems has been analysed and are reported in the Result section, under
the heading “Descriptive statistics” and in the Discussion section, page 9.

Comment 3: “Control for length of imprisonment, please report mean, SD, and median. Were there differences between prisons?”
Response: These are now reported in the Result section, under the heading “Descriptive statistics”.

Yours sincerely
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