Author’s response to reviews

Title: What stops children with a chronic illness accessing health care: a mixed methods study in children with CFS/ME

Authors:

Carly M Webb (m0702395@sgul.ac.uk)
Simon M Collin (simon.collin@bristol.ac.uk)
Toity Deave (toity.deave@uwe.ac.uk)
Andrew Haig-Ferguson (andrew.haig-ferguson@nhs.net)
Amy Spatz (aspatz@sgul.ac.uk)
Esther Crawley (esther.crawley@bristol.ac.uk)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for your review of our manuscript. We are very grateful to your reviewers for their encouraging comments. We have revised the manuscript in accordance with the minor essential revisions requested by referee #2 (itemised below). We trust that our manuscript is now acceptable for publication, and we look forward to hearing from you.

1) Page 8, final paragraph
Data validation was achieved by feeding the themes back to the Association of Young people with ME. They confirmed our findings and reiterated that health professionals need more knowledge about CFS/ME information. People should have a capital letter. There should be a full stop between ME and They.

Capitalization and punctuation corrected. This now reads: “People with ME. They”

2) Page 14, para.3
Parents sometimes found their GPs and paediatricians’ attempts to give information (even if they knew something about the condition) wasn’t always helpful, or wasn’t given in a way they could understand or put it into practice. GPs and paediatricians should have apostrophes, i.e. GPs’ and paediatricians’. Wasn’t, in both cases, should be ‘weren’t’, or preferably ‘were not’.

Punctuation corrected. This now reads: “Parents sometimes found their GPs’ and paediatricians’ attempts to give information (even if they knew something about the condition) were not always helpful, or were not given”

3) Page 14, para. 4.
Parents struggled to communicate an illness that wasn’t visible as well as having difficulty communicating a problem that their child, and not themselves were
experiencing. There should be a comma after themselves.

Punctuation corrected. This now reads: “that their child, and not themselves, were”

4) Page 17

It might be expected that in an area with a less well-established service, the barrier’s to accessing healthcare would be different ... Barrier’s should not have an apostrophe.

Punctuation corrected. This now reads: “service, the barriers to accessing”