Author’s response to reviews

Title: Lost without Translation: Risks of Patient-Physician Language Discordance in Ontario

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Dear Editor,

Thank-you for considering our manuscript entitled “Lost without Translation: Risks of Patient-Physician Language Discordance in Ontario” for publication in the BMC Health Services Research journal. Communication is fundamental to health care access and delivery. Patient-physician language discordance has been negatively associated with patient quality of care and health outcomes. The province of Ontario receives the highest number of new immigrants annually, compared to the rest of Canada. Understanding the linguistic capabilities of Ontario’s immigrant population & the linguistic capabilities of Ontario’s primary care physicians is essential to ensure equal access and quality of healthcare.

Our study is the first to analyze the linguistic and spatial discordance of Ontario’s population that lacks proficiency in English and French and Ontario’s primary care physician population proficient in the non-official languages. The findings outlined in this study make the case for a more in-depth analysis on patient-physician language discordance in Ontario in order to ensure equal access and quality of care for all Ontario’s non-English/non-French population.

The manuscript has been revised to include a ‘Competing Interests’ section and an ‘Authors’ Contribution’ section. The abstract has been reformatted to BMC’s standard format. The methods section has been revised to state that data used from the Canadian Census is openly available on the Statistics Canada website and the data used from the Canadian Medical Directory is available, for purchase, to the general public from Scotts Medical Directory. The dataset used in this study was purchased by co-author Kamran Khan. The submitted manuscript has been reviewed and approved by all co-authors. Once again, thank you for considering our manuscript and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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