Author's response to reviews

Title: Supporter or obstructer; experiences from contact person activities among Swedish women with breast cancer

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Version: 2 Date: 30 November 2004

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BMC Health Care Services

Re: MS# 1525911654468287

Supporter or obstructer; experiences from contact person activities among Swedish women with breast cancer

Thank you for the review of the manuscript above. We have made changes in the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments and would like to answer/clarify the following:

Reviewer: PM

1. In total 8 individuals were invited to participate in the study and all accepted. This has been clarified in the manuscript (Methods, p. 3). Also, demographic data have been included (in table 1) according to the reviewer's suggestions.

2. In the Discussion a section on the generability of the results has been included (Discussion, p. 8) and in this context a references suggested by the reviewer has been included.

3. The "collective" effort expressed by the associations has been exemplified in the manuscript (Background, p. 2). The background of the CP activity within the Reach to Recovery program has been clarified in the same section. An updated reference has been added in this context.

Reviewer: CJB

1. The definition of the associations as well as their individual support activities has been clarified (Background, p. 2)

2. Regarding the "voluntary action perspective" and the "treatment perspective" this paragraph has been re-written and clarified (Background, p.3).
3. This sentence has been omitted. The word concept is no longer used since this study did not use questions, but was based on narratives. This was deliberately chosen in order to allow the informants to freely express their experiences.

4. Totally 8 informants were contacted and none declined participation (clarified in Methods, p. 3).

5. The Grounded Theory (data collection until saturation) was not used - neither in design and data collection, nor in data analysis. We chose to use narrative analysis on which the entire study and the manuscript is based.

6. Two professors of qualitative research have evaluated the design of the study as well as the manuscript and approved thereof.

We hope you will find these alterations satisfactory and that the manuscript may now be accepted in BMC Health Care Services.

Sincerely Yours

Christina Carlsson on behalf of the authors