Author's response to reviews

Title: Coping with uncertainty during healthcare-seeking. A qualitative study in Lao PDR.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Subject: Re-submission of paper based on reviewer discretionary comments

Dear Editor Team,

Thank you very much for, in principle, accepting our manuscript entitled “Coping with uncertainty during health-care seeking. A qualitative study in Lao PDR.” We are very pleased with this decision and we would like to thank the reviewers for their comments during this process.

We have addressed the discretionary comments by the reviewer. Concerning the question from the editor team on informed consent, we have clarified in the methods section that we asked for informed consent verbally. For further details see the attached point-by-point outline of modifications.

For all authors and with kind regards,

Helle M Alvesson
Outline of modifications

Reviewer 1

1. Background, Seeking care in Lao PDR; paragraph 5: It seems to me that the phrase "...with 49 officially ethnic groups recognized by the Government" could be more clearly stated as "with 49 ethnic groups officially recognized by the Government"
We have inserted this change. The text now reads: "with 49 ethnic groups officially recognized by the Government"

2. Methods, data analysis; paragraph 2: To be consistent with the past tense used in prior sentences, the authors could use the past tense of the word "lead" (i.e., "led"). ".. HMA and BK identified more sub-themes that led into the significance..."
Thank you. We have corrected this and have used the past tense "led".

3. Similarly, the past tense of "lead" could be used in paragraph 1 of the subsection titled "The challenge of identifying the causes of disease and deciding which provider to go to." The specific phrase is: "...is one of the answers that led the analysis into the pragmatics of uncertainty."
Thank you. We have corrected this and have used the past tense "led".

Editor:

4. It was noticed that we did not mention if we asked study participants for informed consent.
We did ask all participants for informed consent verbally and we have clarified this in the methods section (data collections, page 10).

5. We have reviewed the instructions for inserting tables and added black lines vertically to delineate the cells in table 1 and 2.