Author's response to reviews

Title: Can user testing of a clinical trial patient information sheet make it fit-for-purpose? - a randomised controlled trial

Authors:

Peter Knapp (p.r.knapp@leeds.ac.uk)
David K Raynor (d.k.raynor@leeds.ac.uk)
Jonathan Silcock (j.silcock@bradford.ac.uk)
Brian Parkinson (brian@makingsense.co.uk)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Thanks for your email containing the reviewers' comments on the revised paper.

Reviewer 1 requests a further change to the article. We have made a change to the section, as requested, but not using the wording Dr Tolich suggests. Contrary to his assertion, we did know that all participants had read the PIS at home, in so far as they told us they had done so (and told us how long it had taken). We have no reason not to believe them.

We have added data on reading times, which may help, perhaps. The revised paragraph is as follows (on page 15):

Participants' reading times were calculated by adding their self-recorded home reading time and their reading time before testing (when applicable). All participants reported reading the sheet at home and had recorded their reading time, which ranged from 10 to 90 minutes. 48 participants (41.4%) chose to read the sheet again immediately before testing (and this additional reading time ranged from 2 to 25 minutes). Total reading time did not vary according to group (original version 27.6 minutes, range 14 – 90, SE 1.5; revised version 28.4 minutes, range 11 – 79, SE 1.7; F=.030, p=.86).

We hope the paper is now acceptable for publication.

Regards

Peter Knapp