Author's response to reviews

Title: Depression care management for late-life depression in China primary care: protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Cover letter for comments

Comments 1: pagination
Answer: done

Comments 2: It appears that there is no single primary outcome. Rather, several outcomes of apparently equal importance are listed. Generally, a single primary is preferred. It that is not the case, the authors should explain why they chose several, and exactly which ones those are. The places where the primary (single or multiple) outcome is unclear are the Abstract, the Objectives section, and the Statistical Analysis section. Of the eight measure used, which ones will be used to decide if the intervention approach is beneficial?
Answer: we accepted the comments and did some modification in different sections. At the abstract section: “The primary aim of this project is to implement a depression care management (DCM) intervention, and examine the effectiveness of DCM for the depressive symptoms of older patients in Chinese primary care settings.” At the objective section: “Using a randomized controlled design, we will examine whether the DCM is an effective treatment for patients with late life depression in urban China. The primary outcome would be the improvement of depressive symptoms of patients in primary care setting. Our specific aims are: 1) To determine whether the DCM intervention results in improved outcomes compared with care as usual (CAU) at patient levels (e.g., greater reduction in depressive symptoms);” At the statistical analysis section: “Aim 1: For primary outcome on patient level outcomes, we hypothesize that patients in DCM practices will have greater reduction in depression symptom severity, and that a larger proportion will achieve clinical remission of depression, than patients who receive CAU.”

Comments 3 and 4:
3. Perhaps because it came from a grant application, there is too much bolding.
Only section headings should be in bold.
4. A few trivial corrections: third page, last line-should probably be “Westerners”;
in various places, sertraline, bupropion, and venlafaxine, since there are not brand names, should not be capitalized; eleventh page, second line-should be Table 1; twelfth page, 15th line-should probably be “assessed”; fifteenth page, 11th line-“data are”; sixteenth page, 23rd line-“any” is superfluous.
Answer: we found these mistakes and fixed them, thanks for reviewer’s careful and helpful reviewing.