Author's response to reviews

Title: QUALZICE: A QUALitative exploration of the experiences of the participants from the ZICE clinical trial (metastatic breast cancer) receiving intravenous or oral bisphosphonates

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Re: MS: 1929828551963221 - QUALZICE: A QUALitative exploration of the experiences of the participants from the ZICE clinical trial (metastatic breast cancer) receiving intravenous or oral bisphosphonates

We are delighted to receive the referee comments and their full understanding of what we are aiming to achieve, i.e. to use qualitative methodologies as outcome measures in clinical trials – and to subsequently engage with a clinical trial/clinician audience.

Their recognition of the value of this paper, notwithstanding a reduced approach for this methodology, is very much appreciated and paves the way for our future outputs.

This is the first output from a challenging programme of work that was initially started five years ago and to begin to see its full recognition is incredibly rewarding, I am very grateful to the editors and referees for their willingness to accept a non-mainstream approach.

I have taken the last remaining point to address from reviewer three and have reworded accordingly and moved from the limitations section to the background:

“For the purposes of this paper, by request of the Chief Investigator and the ZICE Trial Management Group, this paper is written in a style intended to be accessible to a broad audience, and is designed to engage with triallists and clinicians.”

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Annmarie Nelson