Author’s response to reviews

Title: Improvement of primary care for patients with chronic heart failure: a study protocol for comparing two strategies.

Authors:

Jan van Lieshout (j.vanlieshout@iq.umcn.nl)
Betty Steenkamer (b.steenkamer@fasteerstelijn.nl)
Marjan Knippenberg (m.knippenberg@iq.umcn.nl)
Michel Wensing (m.wensing@iq.umcn.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Herewith we resubmit our manuscript entitled ‘Improvement of primary care for patients with chronic heart failure: a study protocol for a cluster randomised trial comparing two strategies’. We thank you for your quick reaction and worked on the issues you raised in your email from July 27th.

We send you – as an additional file - the consort checklist with the extension to cluster trials. We adapted the checklist published in the BMJ 2004 as in the Consort 2010 checklist adding a column with information on the page the items are reported. As expected for our study protocol, from the results on we could not score any item apart from the recruitment and follow up periods. Guided by the checklist we made some changes throughout the manuscript to clarify and address the consort items more explicitly. Most important changes are in the title, adding the design, and an extra table for further explaining and clarifying the methodology of the tailored intervention by giving some examples.

As suggested, we added the sentence that Michel Wensing is an Associate Editor of Implementation Science and that all decisions on this manuscript were made by another senior Editor. Furthermore, we changed the Box into a Table, adjusting the referrals accordingly.

Again, we look forward to your kind consideration of the manuscript.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of all the authors,

Jan van Lieshout
General practitioner researcher

Scientific Institute for Quality of Healthcare
Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre
P.O. Box 9101, 114 IQ healthcare
6500 HB Nijmegen
The Netherlands