Author's response to reviews

Title: Development of an online information and support resource for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients considering surgery: perspectives of health care providers

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
June 11, 2010

To The Scoliosis Editorial Team:

Thank you for your careful review of the manuscript entitled, Development of an online information and support resource for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients considering surgery: perspectives of health care providers (MS: 1317292791351498).

The authors have read the reviewer’s feedback and comments and integrated suggested revisions into the paper. Changes have been highlighted in yellow. Please find the reviewer’s comments and suggestions below accompanied by our responses.

Sincerely,

Radha MacCulloch
Joyce Nyhof-Young
David Nicholas
Sandra Donaldson
James G Wright
Reviewer Report: Joseph O’Brien

Comment:
Thank you for addressing the issues cited in my first review. I appreciate the further explanation of a “review of traditional nonweb-based) and web-based resources patient information and support literature in scoliosis conducted by our research team prior to undertaking the needs assessment” and the subsequent “competitive analysis” used as the basis of your judgments regarding existing scoliosis websites. I did not see any references you cited that provide further explanation of this important work you undertook. Due to the fact that your entire focus group series is based upon these two items I believe more detailed description of your scoliosis specific DISCERN and Competitive Analysis methodology along with the outcome data to evidence the results of these two processes are warranted.

Response:
Thank you for your additional comments. We have added additional information regarding our review of traditional (non-web-based) and web-based resources on page 4 of the manuscript, highlighted in yellow.

The research team did not seek to publish the results from the quantitative competitive analysis as online websites and resources change constantly, potentially rendering the details of this analysis obsolete. However, the general findings from this analysis remain pertinent to the purpose of this paper and the development of a credible, regionally-relevant information and support resource for patients considering surgery for scoliosis and their families.

Reviewer Report: Nachiappan Chockalingam

Thank you very much for your second review.

Reviewer Report: Jim Raso

Thank you very much for your second review.