Author's response to reviews

Title: Non-medical prescribing in Australasia and the UK: the case of podiatry

Authors:

Alan M Borthwick (ab12@soton.ac.uk)
Anthony J Short (anthony@podiatrypractice.com.au)
Susan A Nancarrow (S.Nancarrow@sheffield.ac.uk)
Rosalie Boyce (rosalie.boyce@gmail.com)

Version: 3 Date: 17 November 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Authors’ response to editorial review

The authors would like to extend their thanks to the editors for their attention to detail and thoroughness. Please find a point by point response to the editors’ request for revisions below, as requested. All the requested revisions have been made.

1. Title - remove unnecessary capitalisation (i.e. change title to ‘Non-medical prescribing in Australasia and the UK: the case of podiatry’).

Authors: unnecessary capitalisation removed as requested.

Page 1

2. Change the title ‘Discussion’ to ‘Conclusion’ in line with JFAR instructions to authors < http://www.jfootankleres.com/info/instructions/#abstract >.

Authors: title ‘discussion’ changed to ‘Conclusion’, as requested.

Page 3

3. Methods section, line 1 - change first sentence to ‘The data in the paper were constructed...’.

Authors: ‘was’ replaced with ‘were’ as requested (ie. ‘The data in the paper were’).

Page 4

4. Results section, first heading: change to ‘AHP prescribing in the UK and Australasia’ (i.e. remove capital from prescribing).

Authors: capitals removed, as requested.

Page 4

5. Second paragraph: please reconsider all of the abbreviations (e.g. POM, P, SI, PGDs, and later, GSL, AMA, NHWT, NHHRC, NPAC, SP, MHRA, ACT). We request that you only use abbreviations for commonly known abbreviations (e.g. UK, AHP, MBS, PBS, NHS) and remove all other abbreviations, instead writing these titles out in full. This will make it easier for the reader who is not well versed in these titles to read the manuscript.
Authors: As requested, we have removed all abbreviations not in common use (POM, P, SI, PGDs, GSL, AMA, NHWT, NHHRC, NPAC, SP, MHRA, ACT) and retained only those in common use (PBS, MBS, NHS, UK, AHP/AHPs).

6. Title near bottom of the page: change to 'Medicine and the allied health professions: a socio-historical context' (i.e. remove unnecessary capitals).

Authors: unnecessary capitals removed, as requested.

Page 6
7. Line 2: you have written 'allied health professionals' in full here. Please review (maybe using 'Find and Replace') your usage of the abbreviation 'AHP' with respect to the terms 'allied health professional' and 'allied health profession' (and their plurals, 'allied health professionals' and 'allied health professions'). Please be consistent with its use.

Authors: In line with this request, and point 5 above, we have used the abbreviations AHP/AHPs consistently throughout (after being initially expressed in full) and no longer use the abbreviation and words in full interchangeably.

Page 8
8. Section '2. Australasia', line 15: add a comma after the word 'However' (i.e. 'However, the recommendations in the report were largely ignored by the Howard Government,...').

Authors: comma inserted, as requested.

Page 9
9. 3rd line from the bottom: suggest changing '..., which would clearly have been unable to continue...' to '..., which would clearly have had difficulty continuing...'. It is arguable that the surgeons could have accessed necessary medicines via alternative methods (e.g. referral to medical practitioners), therefore the blanket statement that they would be 'unable' may be too definitive.

Authors: sentence altered to “which would clearly have had difficulty continuing”, as requested.

Page 10
10. Line 5: change 'the' to 'that' (i.e. '...a climate that engendered...').

Authors: changed “the” to “that”, as requested.

Page 12
12. 3rd paragraph, second last line: change 'local anaesthetics' to 'local anaesthetic' (i.e. '...local anaesthetic agents...').

Authors: changed “local anaesthetics” to “local anaesthetic”, as requested.

Page 13
13. Line 9: at the end of the line change 'and' to 'a' (i.e. '...to potentially become a 'designated prescriber'...').
Authors: “and” changed to “a”, as requested.

14. Move the sentence making reference to Table 1 up one line so it joins with the end of the previous paragraph. If you disagree with this, then please add a space between the previous paragraph and the sentence referring to Table 1 (although a one sentence paragraph always looks a bit odd).

Authors: sentence referring to table 1 has been moved up to join the preceding paragraph, as requested.

15. Discussion section, 1st sentence: the second part of this sentence (i.e. ‘..., and the challenge these pose to the dominance of medicine in the arena of prescribing’) does not link very well with the first part. Can you re-word this sentence to make it clearer? In addition, remove the capitals from ‘new public management’.

Authors: we have re-worded this sentence so that it now reads: “It is clear that the recent changes in prescribing rights for AHPs in both the UK and Australasia reflect the impact the forces of neo-liberalism, new public management and economic rationalism have had on medical autonomy in the arena of prescribing”. Capitals have also been removed from “new public management”, as requested.

Pages 13 and 14
16. Discussion section: the discussion as it stands is just one very long paragraph. Can you separate this into a few smaller paragraphs?

Authors: the discussion section has been separated into three paragraphs, with a fourth separated and renamed “conclusions”, as requested (see point 14 below).

Page 14
17. You have not included a ‘Conclusion’. Can you make the last three sentences, for example, your conclusion (i.e. under the heading ‘Conclusion’)?

Authors: the last three sentences have been separated and re-titled as “conclusions”, as requested.

References
18. Please change all journal names to the abbreviated journal names. You may want to use the following website to assist you in this process <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=journals>. There are many instances where this has not been done (e.g. pages 16), but you should check all the references.

Authors: all Pub Med abbreviations for journals indexed with PubMed have been adopted, as requested.