Author's response to reviews

Title: Foot health education for people with rheumatoid arthritis - the practitioner's perspective.

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team,

Thank you to the editorial team for your comments and advised amendments. Please find below a point-by-point description of the changes made to the above manuscript in response to the Editor comments in the order that they were originally listed:

Amendments requested by the Editors:

1. Title: please remove unnecessary capitalisation of the heading in the *JFAR submission system* when you upload your amended manuscript. – completed.
2. Abstract, Results section, 2nd sentence: please remove all full stops after the closing bracket of each number, i.e. (i) (ii) (iii) etc. In addition, in this sentence replace the *&* with *and* in the third point. – completed.
3. Abstract, Conclusion: please change the heading *Conclusions* to *Conclusion*. – amended.
4. Abstract, Conclusion: please change the conclusion to provide a summary of the actual results, rather than a broad summary of what the study has achieved - the way in which your conclusion currently reads does not provide the reader with the findings of the study, so try to summarise the actual findings from the study. – amended to cover the following points: The study identified aspects of patient education that this group of podiatrists consider most important in relation to its': content, timing, delivery and barriers to its' provision. General disease and foot health information in relation to RA together with a potential prognosis for foot health, the role of the podiatrist in management of foot health and appropriate self-management strategies were considered to be key aspects of content, delivered according to the needs of the individual. Barriers to foot health education provision including financial constraints and difficulties in establishing effective therapeutic relationships are viewed as factors that strongly influenced foot health education provision.
5. Page 4, Background section, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence: please check, should the word "sustainably" be "substantially"? – word removed.

6. Page 4 and 5, last two sentences of the Background section: please place these in a new paragraph. – amended.

7. Methods section: to conform with the JFAR guidelines for authors, please remove the colon after each sub-heading. – amended.

8. Page 6, Design section, 2nd sentence: please re-word this sentence as it does not make sense, "...do not result have interaction..."? – “result” removed.

9. Page 6, Design section, last sentence: change *summarization* to *summarisation*. For consistency, please use UK English throughout. – amended.

10. Page 6, 1st sentence of the Participants section: change *North West* to *north-west*.– Amended to northwest (no hyphen required).

11. Page 7, last sentence of the Design section: please change *seven* to *7* (i.e. 7-12) to be consistent with the *12* in the sentence. – amended.

12. Page 7, opening sentences of the Procedures section: please combine the first two sentences to read, “Ethical approval for the study was obtained by the University of Salford Research Ethics Committee and written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to recruitment.” – amended.

13. Page 7, 3rd sentence of the Procedures section: please change to *The focus group questions were devised by the first author (AG), based on a review of the literature and contributions from the other two authors, one with patient education expertise (AH) and one with qualitative research expertise (AW).* – amended.

14. Page 7, 2nd paragraph of the Procedures section, 2nd sentence: amended to, “It was facilitated by the first author (AG) and field-notes were taken by one of the other authors (AW).”

15. Page 7, 2nd paragraph of the Procedures section, last sentence: please change to what was suggested by the previous review provided by Karen Vinall (i.e. please review the points 2 and 3 in Karen Vinall's review). While on this point, we hope that you uploaded the correct version of your revised manuscript on 7 October because you indicated in your cover letter that you had made these changes. – Sorry, I had made those changes, but had omitted to include the reference number [15] referring to Mays and Pope (1995) used to support the rigour of qualitative research.

16. Page 8, Data analysis section: remove the unnecessary capitalisation of the “a” in analysis. – amended.

17. Page 8, Data analysis section, 2nd sentence: please change to, “Agreement for this categorisation was achieved between the first author (AG) and one of the other authors (AW) for both the thematic analysis framework and the data extracted [14,15].” – amended.

18. Page 8, Results section: please remove the unnecessary space after the heading of this section and the first sentence/paragraph. – amended.

19. Page 8, Results section: please remove the abbreviations *MDT* and *PCT* as they are unnecessary because you do not use them frequently in your manuscript and some readers outside of the UK may not be familiar with the abbreviation. You will need to perform a “Find and Replace” in Word to convert all uses of these abbreviations. In future publications, please be careful of over-abbreviating as it can often make an article more difficult to read. In addition, remove the unnecessary capitalisation of multidisciplinary team as you are just referring to them generally, not to “the” Multidisciplinary Team. – amended throughout the manuscript.

20. Page 8, Results section, 3rd sentence: please change the mean and SD to, 17.8 and 9.8 as two decimal places is too great a level of precision for such a measurement as “years”.

21. Page 8, Results section, 5th sentence: please change to, “Those working in a multidisciplinary team (n=5)...”. – amended.

22. Page 8, Results section, 6th sentence: please change to, “Those working in a primary care trust (n=7) had limited contact with a rheumatology multidisciplinary team”. – amended.

23. Results section sub-headings: please change the (i), (ii), (iii) etc to 1. 2. 3. etc. and do not over-capitalise the heading (i.e. *Theme 1. The essence of patient education*, *Theme 2. Content ? what and why?*...etc.). – amended.
24. Page 10, Results section, Theme 2, 2nd sentence: please change the start of this sentence to, "This included: ..." (i.e. add a colon at the beginning of your list of issues) and remove the first comma after the word "disease". – amended.

25. Page 10, Results section, Theme 2, 3rd sentence: please change to, "Jane articulated ...". Please change all sections like this from this point on to reflect past tense. For example in the lead up to the next quote, "As Ann highlights ..." should read "As Ann highlighted ...". – amended throughout the manuscript.

26. Page 12, last sentence of Theme 3: please add a full stop. – amended.

27. Page 14, 2nd last full sentence beginning "This results in patient education that was ineffectual...": please change "it's" to "its" (i.e. remove the apostrophe, which is used when abbreviating "it is"). – amended.

28. Page 15, last sentence of Theme 4: please change "GP's" to general practitioners*. In addition, please review the "MDT/GP's" reference as in this instance, joining the two words (i.e. multidisciplinary team and general practitioners) does not make sense in the context to the rest of this point. – amended throughout the manuscript.

29. Page 15, participant quotes by Gill: please make all two-dot pauses (i.e. ...) to three-dot pauses (i.e. ... ) to be consistent with the rest of the quotes. – amended throughout the manuscript.

30. Page 15, 2nd last sentence: please change patient's attitudes* to patients' attitudes (i.e. remove the apostrophe from attitudes). – amended.

31. Page 16, 1st and 2nd sentences: please reposition the full stop at the end of the 1st sentence and the comma in the second sentence to after the quotations or emphasis marks (i.e. change to (i) "thrust upon them". and (ii) "activity"). – amended.

32. Page 17, last sentence of Theme 5: please change "the age, and gender..." to "the age and gender..." (i.e. remove the comma). – amended.

33. Page 17, Theme 6 heading: please remove the unnecessary capitalisation of the "t" in Trade. In addition, remove the unnecessary space between the heading and the first sentence. – amended.

34. Page 18, last sentence: please change "individualized" to "individualised". – amended.

35. Page 19, Discussion section: please change all references to "podiatrists* to "participants* if you are directly referring to the participants in the study (please check the entire document carefully to make it consistent). It is OK, however, to use podiatrists if you are referring to podiatrists generally. – amended throughout the manuscript where relevant.

36. Page 19, 2nd sentence of the Discussion section: remove comma two-thirds of the way through the sentence (i.e. between "information-giving" and "to enhance"). – amended.

37. Page 19, 2nd last sentence: please add "Podiatric Rheumatic Care Association" before "Musculoskeletal Foot Health Standards" as you cannot assume the reader will have knowledge of these standards (i.e. provide the organisation that produced the standards) - amended.

38. Page 20: please remove all unnecessary abbreviations (e.g. CVD and PAD) as you use them infrequently and they are not necessary. – amended.


40. Page 20, last sentence of 2nd paragraph: please remove unnecessary capitalisation of pathways (i.e. remove the capital P from Care Pathways and make it a lower case p). – amended.

41. Page 21, last few words on the page: change "patient centre" to "patient-centred". – amended.

42. Page 22, 2nd full paragraph, 1st sentence: you use the term "foot-health", but elsewhere you use the term "foot health"...please check the manuscript for consistency. Five lines later, you use the term "one to one", but elsewhere you use the term "one-to-one"...again, please check for consistency. – amended throughout the manuscript.

43. Page 22, 2nd full paragraph, 1st sentence: please remove the abbreviation "NRAS* as it is not needed. – amended.

44. Page 22, 2nd full paragraph, 3rd sentence: please change "individualized" to "individualised". – amended.

45. Page 22, last line: please check that the full stop after the reference [28] is definitely removed from your final version of the manuscript. – amended.
46. Page 23, line 4: please remove the word “but” (i.e. “...such as the purchasing of but appropriate footwear...”). – amended.
47. Page 23, 1st paragraph, last sentence: please add “a” before “comprehensive programme” so it reads, “...to participate in a comprehensive programme...”. – amended.
48. Page 23, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: please change upper case “P” to lower case “p” in podiatrists. amended
49. Page 23, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence: please remove the section “the presence of superior, more experienced practitioners” and replace it with “the presence of more experienced, senior practitioners”. amended
50. Page 24, 1st full paragraph: please remove the abbreviation “IPA” as it is not needed. amended
51. Page 24, 2nd full paragraph, 1st sentence: please change “six” to “6” to be consistent with the “10” in this sentence. amended
52. Page 24, last paragraph, 1st sentence, change “NW” to “north-west”. Amended to northwest.
53. Page 24, lines 4 and 5: please change “AHP” and “consultant rheumatologist” so the section reads, “...that investigates the perceptions of other allied health practitioners and consultant rheumatologists...”. amended.
54. Page 24, 1st paragraph, last section of this paragraph discussing what “the author” is going to do in the future: please remove or change this section to be more neutral. That is, this section can suggest what future work needs to be done, but it is injudicious to lead readers to believe that the author will publish research in this area in the future. This may be the case, but there are many examples in the scientific literature, for all sorts of reasons, that this may never occur. - The patients' perspective on their experiences and patient education needs requires investigation from wide geographical perspective. Amended to:
“The ultimate aim of future research should be the development of a patient-centred and negotiated approach to foot health education, through which the individuals' needs and preferences are identified.”
55. Page 25, Conclusion section: please remove the unnecessary space after the heading “Conclusion” and before the 1st sentence. – amended.
56. Page 25, Conclusion section: please amend the conclusion to present a more informative summary of what exactly your study found. For example, you write, “Potential barriers to its delivery and the influence of the therapeutic relationship were also identified”. What were the barriers and what influenced the therapeutic relationship? [This point needs to be considered alongside point 3 above (i.e. the Conclusion in the Abstract).] amended in line with conclusion within the abstract.
57. Page 26: please remove the unnecessary space between the “Competing interests” heading and the sentence below. - amended.
58. Page 26, Acknowledgements section: please amend the end of the sentence as there are words missing. - amended.
59. Reference section: please reformat references to the JFAR style. Check the instructions for the correct format of references. If you use EndNote, the style can be downloaded at: http://www.biomedcentral.com/download/endnote/biomedcentral.ens For example: you need to change the full stop after the authors names to a colon in line; abbreviate all journal names? journal names must be abbreviated using the PubMed abbreviations, which can be found at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/journals; and use the correct semi-colons and colon (without spacing) after the year and volume number. – amended as per the instructions from JFAR and to include the PubMed abbreviated journal reference names – where abbreviations are given.
60. Page 34, Table 1: please change the heading to “Table 1: Outline of the basic and organising themes developed from the thematic analysis” - amended.
61. Page 34, Table 1: please remove the space after the third cluster of basic themes and change “v” to vs. and “specific to “specific” - amended.
62. Figure 1: please remove the underline of the figure heading and the second colon at the end of the heading. In addition, please change “v” to vs. amended
I hope this is a detailed enough description of the changes made. If you require any additional information, I would be more than happy to provide it.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Graham, Lecturer in Podiatry.