Author's response to reviews

Title: Completeness of reporting of setting and health worker cadre among trials on antenatal iron and folic acid supplementation in pregnancy: an assessment based on two Cochrane reviews

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor-in-chief:

Included below are a list of the revisions made to our manuscript “Reporting of setting and health worker cadre among trials on antenatal iron and folic acid supplementation in pregnancy: a quality assessment based on two Cochrane reviews” by Harper R, et al. These revisions are based on the reviews delivered on May 10, 2013. We would like to propose the following changes:

1) Cover Page
   a. The title was changed to address reviewer concerns that it is not in line with the results displayed in the study. We propose that “completeness” is a more appropriate alternative to “quality.”
   b. Addition of “Evidence and Programme Guidance” to PR’s affiliations
   c. “Norwegian Satellite of EPOC Group” was removed from SL and CG’s contact information.

2) Abstract
   a. One line was added to “data and results” in an effort to further clarify questions regarding the standard used for quality reporting brought up by one reviewer. We believe that this sentence reflects the broader theme that although some setting and cadre information is often included in trial reports, it is frequently not readily available to the reader.

3) Background
   a. A description of what the CONSORT statement and extension for pragmatic trials suggest for setting and health worker cadre reporting was included to add more context to the study.
   b. References to previous work examining setting and health worker cadre reporting were also included for similar reasons.

4) Objective
   a. The objective was modified so that it mirrors the objective stated in the abstract.

5) Methods
   a. We added information on how the criteria for evaluation were chosen and the definition used for quality reporting as well as the criteria for satisfactory reporting used in data collection: precise description in the correct location.

6) Discussion
   a. Changes to the final paragraph addressing reviewer concerns that the data for comparison was not included in the study results. With the proposed changes we argue that there is a low priority given to reporting study characteristics such as cadre and setting, despite these being important parts of a study.

7) Conclusions
   a. We adjusted the previous language so that points were more specific to data presented in the study.

8) Statement of disclosure added to Author’s Information
9) Underlining removed from reference number 11
10) Table 1
   a. The title of Table 1 was changed to make it clear that only satisfactory results were included.
   b. The 6th row of Table 1, pertaining to study specific training of health-workers, was changed to remove the word “lay” and include a percentage of trials reporting. Initially this word was included because it is possible that professional health-workers would not need additional training for an intervention such as iron and folic acid supplementation. However, because some amount of orientation or training is required for all those involved in a study, any training or omission of training should be justified by study authors. For this reason, we would like to publish the results with the included edits.
11) On the PRISMA diagram:
   a. The first box was removed and second box renamed “records identified from the reviews.”
   b. An explanation of “no published report available” was given for those reviews excluded in the initial screening.
   c. The words “reasons given” were removed from the articles excluded box in the eligibility section.

We appreciate your initial review and suggestions.

Thank you,

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