Author’s response to reviews

Title: A protocol for a systematic review of research on managing Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia (BPSD) for community dwelling older people: evidence mapping and syntheses

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Systematic Reviews
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Dear Editor,

A protocol for a systematic review of research on managing Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia (BPSD) for community dwelling older people: evidence mapping and syntheses

This paper reports on a protocol for research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) under its Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme (Grant Reference Number RfPB PB-PG-0211-24078). I confirm that this study has been peer reviewed by the funding body. It has received ethics approval (National Research Ethics Service Committee East of England, Cambridge Central, reference: 13/EE/0040). Written informed consent for participation in the study will be obtained from all participants (indicated in the Methods section).

A contracting letter from the NIHR RfPB and a letter of favourable opinion from the ethics committee have been submitted as additional files. The protocol is registered with PROSPERO.

Evidence is limited on what strategies work in the home setting and what methods of on-going support are most likely to ameliorate carer strain and pre-empt unwanted residential care and/or hospitalisation. Our study will integrate findings from evidence with the perspectives of people with dementia, their carers as well as service providers to develop recommendations for effective management of BPSD for community dwelling older people.

We believe our paper provides a timely and a significant contribution to the management of BPSD for people with dementia who live at home and their carers.

Publishing in ‘Systematic reviews’ will provide the added value of faster and wider access as well as high visibility in this field of work, which has implications for practice. We hope that the readers of your journal, researchers, practitioners and policy makers will find it of interest.
We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

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