Author’s response to reviews

Title: Strategies for Eliciting and Synthesizing Evidence for Guidelines in Rare Diseases

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Thank you for the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript. The following Technical Comments were received:

1. The Authors Contributions section should specify the individual contributions of each author. Each author should also be specifically mentioned by their unique initials.

2. We note that in the Ethics approval and consent to participate it states "Not applicable", but in the Ethics Approval section on page 9 it says that the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board granted approval. Please clarify this situation.

Our clarifications are reflected in the revised manuscript, and are as follows:
1. The Authors Contributions section now specifically mentions each author by their unique initials.

2. We have clarified the Ethics section as follows: The qualitative study conducted as part of the NHF-McMaster hemophilia guideline was submitted to and approved by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants in the qualitative study. Ethics approval for the remainder of the work described in this manuscript (surveys of guideline panel members, whose ethical treatment and consent to participate in guideline related activities was considered implicit, as well as systematic reviews of anonymized and published data) was not sought, as it was determined not to require ethics submission and approval as per the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.