Author’s response to reviews

Title: Reliability of routinely collected anthropometric measurements in primary care

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Author’s response to reviews:

BMC Medical Research Methodology
Eleanor Harding
BioMed Central
The Campus, 4 Crinan Street
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RE: BMRM-D-18-00581R1 “Reliability of routinely collected anthropometric measurements in primary care”

Dear Eleanor Harding,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and resubmit the manuscript titled “Reliability of routinely collected anthropometric measurements in primary care” to BMC Medical Research Methodology.

The reviewers’ and editors’ comments and suggestions were very helpful and we feel have improved the quality of our manuscript. We have responded to all the comments and suggestions and incorporated them into the revised manuscript where necessary. Please see below the point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ individual comments:
Editor Comments:

Please ensure that the email address for the corresponding author matches that which has been listed on our editorial system—currently they differ.

Response: We have changed the corresponding author email address in the editorial system to match the manuscript.

Please represent authors' names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Response: We have used authors’ full initials rather than full names in the Contributions section.

Please move your abbreviations to the Declarations section.

Response: The abbreviations have been moved to the Declarations section.

Please include a Keywords section below your abstract listing three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article.

Response: We have included a Keywords section below the abstract.

Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

Response: We have restructured our discussion to include a separate Conclusions section.

Please rename your 'Introduction' section to 'Background'.

Response: We have renamed this section.

Reviewer’s Comments:

Catherine M. Crespi (Reviewer 2): I am still concerned that the study is biased towards high agreement due to several important factors, such as the fact that, as stated by the authors "The practices that volunteered to participate were already participating in research through TARGet Kids!, therefore may have more standardized protocols related to measurement compared to
other primary care practices in Ontario" and the fact that the practitioners knew they were being observed. The conclusion should be more tempered.

Response: We thank the reviewer for this important comment and have tempered our conclusions appropriately.

In the abstract, the text now states (Abstract, Page 2) “There was agreement between routine measurements and research measurements although there were some differences in length measurement reliability between practice staff and research assistants. These results provide justification for using routinely collected data from selected primary care practices for secondary purposes such as BMI population surveillance and research.

In the Conclusion (Page 14, lines 17-19) the text now states “This study has identified that primary care practitioners in selected primary care practices who adhere to standardized equipment and procedures measure weight, length/height as well as research trained personnel.”

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Birken (Corresponding Author)

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