Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of the quality of care of a multi-disciplinary Risk Factor Assessment and Management Programme for Hypertension (RAMP-HT)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Ref: (MS: 6113984651710001)

Thank you very much for your comment and consideration of the manuscript. In response to your email dated 28 May 2015 for the clarification of our study protocol article on the “Evaluation of the quality of care of a multi-disciplinary Risk Factor Assessment and Management Programme for Hypertension (RAMP-HT)”, please find below our response, in italics, to your questions and comments.

1. Please confirm in the Methods/Design section of the manuscript whether the protocol was peer-reviewed by the funding organization.

R: Yes. The protocol had been peer-reviewed by the funding organization (Health and Health Services Research Fund, Food and Health Bureau).

We have added a section “Funding” at the end of the Methods section of the revised manuscript (page 14) to clarify this point as follow:

Funding

This study is part of the “Extended evaluation of quality of care of chronic disease management programmes and public-private partnership programmes of the Hospital Authority”, which was peer-reviewed and funded by the Health and Health Services Research Fund, Food and Health Bureau, HKSAR Commissioned Research on Enhanced Primary Care Study (Ref. no: EPC-HKU-2).

The approval document from the funding organization was attached for your reference.

Please free feel to contact me if you require any further information. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Yu Yee Tak Esther
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Your Ref.:

27 July 2011

Prof Cindy LK LAM
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By email and post

Dear Prof. Lam,

Commissioned Study on Enhanced Primary Care

I am pleased to inform you that two grants have been approved for the following projects:

(i) In-depth cost-effectiveness study of the Multidisciplinary Risk Factor Assessment and Management Programme (RAMP) and the Patient Empowerment Programme (PEP) of the Hospital Authority (Ref: EPC-HKU-1A & 1B) [Approved amount: HK$3,750,000]

(ii) Extended evaluation of quality of care of chronic disease management programmes and public-private partnership programmes of the Hospital Authority (Ref: EPC-HKU-2) [Approved amount: HK$5,685,000]

The Agreements for these projects are now ready for signing.

Prior to the release of funds by reimbursement, the Principal Applicants and the Administering Institution are required to sign an Agreement covering the terms and conditions of the research project.

The Agreements of these approved projects have now been sent to the research office of your institution. They will liaise with you to make arrangement for the Agreement to be signed. Please note the following:

- You and your witness are required to sign three copies of the Agreement.
- Representatives of the Administering Institution are required to sign three copies of the Agreement.
- There is a need for the signed copies of the Agreement to be returned to the Research Fund Secretariat by 10 August 2011.
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- Upon receipt of your signed contractual agreement, we shall verify the information on the Agreement and return two signed copies to you. Please note that the expenditure for the project covers the period between the specified commencement and end dates only.

I would also like to draw your attention to the following clauses of the Agreement:

- Clause 4 on the reporting requirements. Please note the types of reports to be submitted and deadline for each submission.
  - You are reminded that the Hong Kong SAR Government co-owns with the administering institution all materials and deliverables (including copyright) resulting from this project.
- Clause 5 on the payment arrangement.
- Clause 10 on intellectual property rights. The administering institution and principal applicant shall not use the materials for any purpose other than non-commercial academic purpose. Written consent from the Government is required to assign intellectual property rights (including copyright) to a third party.
- Clause 32 on the no double funding requirement. The Project Team shall not submit the same or similar project proposal to, or receive financial assistance for the same or similar project proposal from any other funding agency.
- Fifth Schedule for agreed milestones and deliverables.
- Annex B for special conditions, if any.

In addition, the principal applicant and administering institution should note that any changes to the duration, scope, study design, methodology, sample size, or budget of the approved project require prior approval of the Government.

I wish you every success in your project.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Amanda TANG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc. Research Services, HKU (Fax: 2803 0558)