Author’s response to reviews

Title: "I can't bend it and it hurts like mad": Direct observation of gout consultations in routine primary health care

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. Please can you clarify whether any permissions were required to access and use the ARCH Corpus data and clearly state who you obtained permission from in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.

The “Ethics approval and consent to participate” declaration has been amended to read:

All participants whose data is held in the ARCH Corpus provided written informed consent to participation in the original studies, for the archiving of the data for future unspecified use in research and education, and for the publication of de-identified excerpts in future publications. Each of the original studies on which this manuscript is based have been approved by the New Zealand National Health and Disability Ethics Committee (Study reference numbers: IS - Wellington Ethics Committee 03/09/090; TS - Central Region Ethics Committee CEN/05/12/096; DS - Lower South Regional Ethics committee LRS/08/09/041). Permission to access the data for the purposes of this study was granted by the ARCH Governance Group.[27]

2. Thank you for providing the ethics approval information for the original studies. Please can you also provide a statement in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section regarding consent to participate for the original studies. Please clarify whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants i.e. patients and health practitioners in the IS, TS and DS studies. If verbal please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.

See response to point 1
Please also clarify in this section whether all participants gave informed consent, written or verbal, for their data to be archived and used in future publications.

See response to point 1

3. In the Consent for publication section please clarify who consent was obtained from and whether it was written or verbal.

This section has been amended to read:

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants for the use of de-identified data and transcript excerpts in academic publications (as is the case here).

4. Please include an ‘Authors’ contributions’ section in the Declarations where you specify the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript. Please use initials to refer to each author's contribution in this section. Please note that an 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study.

An “Authors' contribution” section has been added to the declaration that specifies the contribution of each individual author.

5. We note that you have made some changes to the abstract in the manuscript, please ensure that the manuscript in the system has also been updated with any changes.

The abstract in the system has been updated to reflect the final version of the manuscript

6. Please submit your revised manuscript as a clean copy without any tracked changes, coloured or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.

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