Author’s response to reviews

Title: How general practitioners perceive and assess self-care in patients with multiple chronic conditions: a qualitative study

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1. In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section of the Declarations please include a statement regarding consent to participate from the GPs. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all GPs and clearly state this in this section. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

Response:

It is now confirmed in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section of the Declarations that “Written informed consent of participation was obtained from all GPs”.

2. Unfortunately some of the quotes contain too many indirect identifiers which compromise the anonymity of the patients. It is our policy to not publish more than 2 indirect identifiers without consent for publication from participants. If you do not have written consent from the patients for the publication of these quotes we suggest removing some of the indirect identifiers from the quotes, for example, from the quote talking about the patient who is a fisherman on page 11. We also suggest removing the part “Well, she’s not that bright, is she? It’s not that easy to… how should I put this…, explain things to her…” from the quote on page 12 as it is quite insulting towards the patient.

Response:
We have revised the quotes and made more changes to avoid indirect identifiers, which we now believe to have reduced as much as possible. Before being interviewed, the GPs were asked to anonymize information about patients during the interviews.

Instead of fisherman, we have written “He likes to go fishing” on page 11. The study was set on two islands with around 100,000 inhabitants of whom many have boats and go fishing.

We have deleted: “Well she’s not that bright, is she?” on page 12. We do not find the remaining sentence insulting, but have removed “how should I put this”, which could be misunderstood.

The quote on the transition from page 12 to page 13 has been changed from “apartment” to “home” to reduce the risk of indirect identification.

For the same reason, the quote on the transition from page 13 to page 14 has been changed from “my son” to “my child”.

3. Please ensure your writing conforms to journal style specifically, some parts of writing are still not in accordance with scientific writing style, e.g. table legends.

Table 2 shows a profile of the patient cases that informed discussion in the GP interviews, n = 36

Table 3: shows the process for analyzing our data using systematic text condensation

Response:

Both table legends have now been changed as requested.