Author’s response to reviews

Title: Well informed physician-patient communication in consultations on back pain – study protocol of the cluster randomized GAP trial

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Well informed physician-patient communication in consultations on back pain - study protocol of the cluster randomized GAP trial

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BMC Family Practice

Dear Mr. Byrne and Mrs. Honor Aronin,

thanks for the Editorial assessment of our manuscript “Well informed physician-patient communication in consultations on back pain - study protocol of the cluster randomized GAP trial“ and your comments.

We integrate all of your proposed amendments into the revised manuscript. We highlighted our changes in the manuscript yellow:

1) Please include the email addresses for all authors in the Title Page.

We included all email addresses in the Title Page. We also changed some affiliations, because some authors have changed their jobs recently.

2) The abstract should start on a new page with the manuscript progressing from there onwards.

We’ve made the amendment in the text.

3) Please remove the section “Objective and design” from the Background. The paragraph “Objective” can be integrated into the Background.
We integrated the paragraph “Objective” into the Background (see page 7, line 20) and removed the section “Objective and design”.

4) Please remove Box 1 and integrate information, if required, into the Background.

We integrated information of Box 1 into the Background section (see page 5, line 19).

5) Please remove the plan to publish section from the Discussion and integrate information, if required, into the Methods.

We integrated the plan to publish section into the Methods (see page 22, line 1).

6) Please revise the Declarations in accordance with our Submission Guidelines. Specifically remove the section “Informed consent materials” and change “Ethics approval” to “Ethics approval and consent to participate” and include information on the consent to participate.

We removed the section “Informed consent materials” and included the section acknowledgements (see page 24, line 25). We also changed the section “Ethics approval and consent to participate and included information on the consent to participate” (see page 24, line 12).

7) We note that you have included Tables in your manuscript, please revise these in accordance with our Submission Guidelines.

Thanks for your comment. We revised all the tables in the manuscript according to your Submission Guidelines.

8) Please remove the titles and legend from the Figures and re-upload the corrected versions. All figure titles/legends should be placed at the end of the main manuscript, after the References.

We removed the title and the legend from Figure 1 (see upload of Figure 1) and placed them at the end of the main manuscript (see page 31, line 18). We re-uploaded the corrected version.

9) Thank you for providing ethics approval from Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg. Can you clarify whether this approval covers all general practices that will be recruited during this study.
The ethics approval from the Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg covers all general practices that will be recruited during this study. We also clarified it in the manuscript on page 24, line 16: The ethics committee of the university in Erlangen agreed to the Freiburg approval. In accordance with the Bavarian Medical Association, we clarified that the Erlangen agreement to the Freiburg approval covers all general practices that will be recruited during this study.

10) We note that the contributions of several authors are currently not listed in the Authors’ Contribution section of the Declarations. Please amend this section to include their contributions to this study.

We included the contributions of the missing authors in this section (see page 24, line 6) and checked their contributions with the ICMJE guidelines. Thanks for your help.

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

With best wishes

Katharina Wollmann