Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identifying policies and strategies for GP retention in direct patient care in the United Kingdom: a RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Method Panel study

Authors:
Suzanne Richards (s.h.richards@leeds.ac.uk)
Rupa Chilvers (rupa@tangerinebee.com)
Emily Fletcher (e.fletcher@Exeter.ac.uk)
Alex Aylward (aylward@btinternet.com)
Sarah Dean (s.dean@exeter.ac.uk)
Chris Salisbury (c.salisbury@bristol.ac.uk)
John Campbell (john.campbell@exeter.ac.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 29 Aug 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

We thank the editor for the feedback on this manuscript. We have summarised our response to editorial review following each comment.

EDITOR: In the Ethics approval section of the Declarations, please state whether consent was obtained from participants and if so, please state whether consent obtained from participants was written or verbal. If the consent was verbal please include reasoning for this and state if an ethics committee approved this method of obtaining consent.

OUR RESPONSE: As requested, we have clarified the consent process in the declarations section. Panel participants were provided with survey accompanied by a Participant Information Sheet, which informed them that returning a completed questionnaire (online or paper) constituted consent to take part in the panel. This method of consent was approved by the ethics committee.

EDITOR: We notice that much of the text in the Abstract overlaps with text found in one of your conference abstracts from last year. In the Acknowledgements section, please include a statement that reflects this.
OUR RESPONSE: As requested, we have added a sentence referring to the conference abstract in the acknowledgments section.

EDITOR: Please remove the Funding section below the Abstract, as this information should only be included in Funding section of the Declarations.

OUR RESPONSE: We have checked the manuscript and there is no funding section below the Abstract in the version that we previously submitted. If we are in error, please refer to the page number on which the material is reproduced in error and we will delete the text as per your wishes.

EDITOR: We note a change in the order of authors since original submission of the manuscript. In line with COPE guidelines, BioMed Central requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts or published articles.

In such cases, we use a standardised form which we would request that you and your co-authors complete. The change in authorship form can be found from the link on the following page:

https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5

OUR RESPONSE: We have returned the authorship order to the original order.

EDITOR: As Suzanne Richards is a member of the editorial board (Associate Editor) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.

OUR RESPONSE: Suzanne Richards formally resigned as an Associate Editor in June 2019 after a protracted break from the role (from 2017). However, I note that my resignation has still not been updated on the online editorial system. For completeness, I have inserted a declaration to the effect that SR was a former Associate Editor for this journal until June 2019 in the Competing Interests Section.

EDITOR: At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.
OUR RESPONSE: Done as requested.