Author’s response to reviews

Title: Design of the ZWOT-CASE study: an observational study on the effectiveness of an integrated programme for cardiovascular risk management compared to usual care in general practice

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor, dear Dr Maria Zalm,

Enclosed please find the third revised version of our manuscript entitled, “Design of the ZWOT-CASE study: an observational study on the effectiveness of an integrated programme for cardiovascular risk management compared to usual care in general practice” for consideration for publication as an study protocol paper in BMC Family Practice.

We appreciate the interest of the Editor and reviewers in our manuscript. We would like to thank the reviewers again for their constructive feedback and helpful comments. A point-by-point response to the remaining comment of the second reviewer and the editor is appended to this letter. All changes in the manuscript are indicated in the text by using track changes. Also, we added a clean version of the manuscript.
In our view, the readership of the BMC Family Practice is the most appropriate audience to present our study protocol to; This paper is relevant for general practitioners and researchers in primary care across the world who wish to stay informed about cardiovascular primary care and to emphasize the importance of scientific evaluation of cardiovascular risk management.

Thank you again for consideration of our revised manuscript. We appreciate your time and are eagerly awaiting your response.

With kind regards,

On behalf of all co-authors,

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Point-by-point response letter

To the second reviewer

We would like to thank the reviewer for the constructive feedback and helpful remaining comment.
Requested revisions:

I refer to my review. The revision is generally very well done. My only remaining comment is that I would prefer to avoid the phrase ‘control group’ for this observational study in which groups are composed on the basis of self-selection.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for this suggestion and changed ‘control group’ into ‘usual care group’.

To the editor

Requested revisions:

In the trial registration data at the end of your abstract, please also include the following information: Full name of registry, date of registration, and a statement that the study has been retrospectively registered (as registration has taken place after the first participant has enrolled)

Answer: we added the requested information to the trial registration at the end of the abstract.