Author’s response to reviews

Title: Construct Validity of the Dining Environment Audit Protocol: A Secondary Data Analysis of the Making Most of Mealtimes (M3) Study

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Version: 3 Date: 30 Dec 2017

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1. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please clarify how you determined which participants could not give their own consent and instead required consent to be given by a proxy

Response: CPS scores were used. This is noted on line 152.

2. In order to be in line with journal requirements, please include the following headings within your manuscript: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions

Response: These headings are now provided.

3. Please include all trial information (name of registry, date of registration and registration number) at the end of your abstract and in your ethics section of your declarations

Response: Trial registration information is now provided in the abstract and ethics section of declaration.
4. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Currently, SS, CL, VB and NC are missing. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

Response: details for all author contributions are provided.

5. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of HC and JM as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to the listed tasks alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND

c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

Response: The Author section has been amended to clarify the contributions of authors.

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Response: a clean single file including tables has been uploaded.