Author’s response to reviews

Title: Change in quality of life and potentially associated factors in patients receiving home based primary care: A prospective cohort study

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Responses to Editor’s Comments

Thank you for the recognition of our ideas and efforts. In accordance with your comments, we have revised the manuscript (marked in red) based on the following responses, and minor edits were made to the original text to incorporate the changes.

# Comment 1

Can you please adequately address Comment #3 by Reviewer #1 in the previous review round:

Comment #3

The inclusion of information about missing data is a big improvement. However, I have some concerns about the high % of missing data for QOL, especially given that QOL is the central focus of the paper. The authors have reported a missing proportion of 28% and 19% respectively for the self-perceived and family QOL data. This seems very high (generally an acceptable range
is 5-10%). Can the authors provide a reference from the literature justifying their decision for proceeding despite this high proportion?

To adequately address this comment, please discuss the high missing percentage of missing data specific to QOL (eg specifically state in your discussion section that you have a missing proportion of 28% and 19% respectively for the self-perceived and family QOL data). Currently, in your discussion you state that "...the high mortality and drop-out rates decreased the robustness of the evidence obtained". This does not address the issue that you have many missing data specific to QOL and not just a vague "evidence obtained".

# Response 1

We have revised the section of Discussion (Page 15, Paragraph 3) as follows:

“First, a missing proportion of 28% and 19% respectively for the self-perceived and family QOL data was found during the follow-up period. Although the high mortality and drop-out rates decreased the robustness of the evidence obtained, a 15-year cohort study showed only weak dependency between a high attrition rate (56%) and health outcomes.”

# Comment 2

A major concern is that your authors HK, AA, SK, KM and HN do not fulfil the ICMJE requirements for authorship: http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html

This document states that all authors should meet all four criteria for authorship:

a. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND b. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND c. Final approval of the version to be published; AND d. Agreement 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.

In your "Author Contribution" section, you have stated that these 5 coauthors (HK, AA, SK, KM and HN) collected data, screened records and read and approved the final manuscript. Is that all these 5 people did? If so, this does not warrant authorship. Rather, an acknowledgement of their
contribution should be placed in the "Acknowledgement Section". For authorship (as outlined above), there needs to be an intellectual contribution to the design of the project, analysis or interpretation of the work. Authors need to do something intellectually more than collect data and read and approve the final version of the manuscript. This issue needs to be addressed.

# Response 2

All authors including HK, AA, SK, KM and HN are intellectually contributed to the design, analysis, interpretation of the work. We have updated the authors’ contributions (Page 17).