Author’s response to reviews

Title: Drug use differs by care level. A cross-sectional comparison between older people living at home or in a nursing home in Oslo, Norway

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Please find below a point-by-point response to each Editorial comment that we received.

1. Ethics “Please can you move your ethical statement in the methods to the ‘Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate’ section. Can you also please clarify that formal consent is not required due to the retrospective nature of the study.

If the need for ethics approval was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.”

We moved the ethical statement, as required. We clarified that formal consent was not required and we added a statement on the data retrieved from the Norwegian Prescription Database.

The revised text of the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section is now as follows:

“According to the Norwegian act on medical and health research, no formal ethical approval was needed for the present study. Formal consent was not required because data is anonymous. The study protocol of the medication review project at the nursing homes, which generated part of the data used here, was presented to the Regional Committee in Medical Research Ethics in South-East Norway (reference no. 2015/786) and the Norwegian Centre for Research Data (reference no. 43659). Both bodies concluded that their formal approval was not needed. The other part of the data used here was aggregated tabulated data retrieved from the Norwegian Prescription Database (NorPD). No permissions were required to access and retrieve the study data. The privacy of the individual is strictly protected and data is anonymous.”
2. Availability of Data and Materials “Please can you provide a link and specify whether the database used is publically accessible or whether any permissions were required to access the ‘Norwegian Prescription Database’.

We amended the paragraph as follows: “The Norwegian Prescription Database (NorPD) contains data about all dispensed drugs in Norway and it is publically accessible on http://www.norpd.no. Data from NorPD is intended for general scientific research purposes, statistical analysis and planning. No permissions were required to access the NorPD and to retrieve the study data.”

3. Author Contributions
Currently, you have listed the author ‘HBS’ under ‘author contributions’ if this was meant to be the listed author ‘HSB’ please update this in your manuscript.
Currently, you have stated “All authors approved the final manuscript.” Can you also clarify within your manuscript whether all authors read and approved the final draft of the manuscript?

We corrected the author to HSB. We added that all authors read and approved the final draft of the manuscript.

4. Funding: In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

We amended the text as follows: “The funding bodies had no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.”

5. Tables: Please can you change ‘textbox’ to ‘table 6’ and ensure this is updated throughout your manuscript.

We changed Textbox to Table 6 and we updated this throughout the manuscript.

6. Formatting
Please can you change the heading “introduction” to “background”.

We changed the heading accordingly.
7. Clean Manuscript
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 colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

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We hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in BMC Geriatrics.

Yours sincerely,

Amura Francesca Fog, on behalf of the authors