Author’s response to reviews

Title: Implementing a novel strategy for multidisciplinary medication review using collegial mentoring and systematic clinical evaluation in nursing homes (COSMOS)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Comments 29.03.19: Sorry about the mistakes, hopefully now the legend is correct.

Comments 2. revision: Dear Editor and reviewer

Thank you for assessing this manuscript and your advice on how to improve it. We are grateful for the opportunity to resubmit, and hope you find the manuscript acceptable. All changes in the manuscript are marked by “track changes”.

Reviewer 1: The revisions addressed my previous minor comments and I have no additional comments.

Response from authors: Thank you!

Comments from reviewer 3:

Has the author addressed the previous reviewer's concerns sufficiently for you to recommend the revised work as a technically sound contribution? Yes

Reviewer comments: I'm stepping in for the original Reviewer #2 who was not available for the revision. I think the authors have addressed Reviewer #2’s feedback in their comments, clarifying that this paper is not a traditional RCT, but a companion paper to the study describing the process they carried out.

Response from authors: Thank you!
Reviewer 3: I think they’ve described their process thoroughly by outlining each step in the implementation of the medication review. I do think they could be more specific in both the abstract and introduction by stating that the purpose of this paper is to describe the process and not just study outcomes. The abstract reads more like the aim of the paper is to present quantitative findings.

Response from the authors: To communicate our aim more clearly, we have changed the method section of the abstract (see revised manuscript) and changed the sentence describing aim in the introduction to:

“We describe the process of implementation and report the findings for the following research questions: “

Reviewer 3: The Analyses section (p.9) is too brief. They’ve only allocated 2 sentences to describe the qualitative analysis conducted; this warrants more information, along with a reference to support qualitative analysis (something simple like Creswell 2003 would suffice).

Response from authors: We have altered the description to: “To gain insight into the diversity of barriers and promotors, we chose a qualitative approach. We used a simple thematic analysis as described by (Mays and Pope 2006) to systematically examine these issues, to be able to identify promotors and barriers. Two researchers (CG and RLSK) read the transcribed feedback independently, and systematically searched for recurring themes of interest. We thematically coded the “main messages”, at first using the participants language, then gradually refining the codes and developing clearer categories through an iterative process of re-reading and discussion (Mays and Pope 2006).”


We thank you for this important point, and hope that this change clarifies the process.

Reviewer 3: I would recommend a table to list the barriers and promotors themes that were identified, and/or this could be more clearly stated in the barriers/promotors section (p.11). For example, a sentence stating ""The barriers identified included x, y and z."" followed by descriptions of x, y and z with representative quotes. Then another sentence stating ""The promotors identified included a, b and c."" following by descriptions of a, b and c with representative quotes.

Response from authors: We made a new table of barriers and promotors (Table 4) to highlight the most important ones.
Reviewer 3: Overall the paper needs copy editing for minor grammatical and spelling errors throughout.

Response from the authors: The paper has been read through to improve the language and remove the grammatical and spelling errors.

On behalf of all the authors

Christine Gulla,

First author