Author's response to reviews

Title: A randomised controlled trial of an exercise plus behaviour change intervention in people with multiple sclerosis: the Step it Up study protocol

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Nhell,

Many thanks for your email re: your suggested changes to our article "A randomised controlled trial of an exercise plus behaviour change intervention in people with multiple sclerosis: the Step it Up study protocol".

To address each of your comments:

1. "We cannot find any record of your trial registration number online. Please check your manuscript to ensure that the correct number has been provided."
   - Thank you, I checked and the registration number provided is correct. Please follow link to our registered trial (Trial registration number NCT02301442):
     https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02301442?term=NCT02301442&rank=1

2. "Requesting name of ethics committee:

   Please update your ethics statement to include the name of the ethics committee that approved your study."

   Thank you please see the 3 ethics committees that we gained ethical approval from:
   - Health Service Executive Mid-West Research Ethics Committee
   - Galway University Hospitals Clinical Research Ethics Committee
   - University of Limerick, Faculty of Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee

   We have clarified this in the manuscript: “The study will be performed in agreement with the Declaration of Helsinki and is approved by the Health Service Executive Mid-West Research Ethics Committee, the Galway University Hospitals Clinical Research Ethics Committee and the University of Limerick,
Faculty of Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.”

3. "Requesting ethics and funding proofs"

Thank you- we will send the letters of approval for the 3 ethics committees involved in this study and also the letter of funding approval to:
BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com

4. "Funding"

Thank you. To clarify, yes, this study protocol has undergone peer-review by the Irish Health Research Board as part of the funding application process.

5. "Study status"

Thank you. To clarify, this study is ongoing- specifically it is at the recruitment stage.

6. "Related articles"

Thank you. To clarify, we have not published or submitted the results of this study to any journal.

Please do let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Sara Hayes