Author’s response to reviews

Title: Integrated children's clinic care (ICCC) versus a self-directed care pathway for children with a chronic health condition: a multi-centre randomised controlled trial study protocol

Authors:

Thuy Frakking (thuy.frakking@health.qld.gov.au)
John Waugh (john.waugh@health.qld.gov.au)
Hsien-Jin Teoh (hsien-jin.teoh@health.qld.gov.au)
Doug Shelton (doug.shelton@health.qld.gov.au)
Susan Moloney (susan.moloney@health.qld.gov.au)
Donna Ward (donna.ward2@health.qld.gov.au)
Michael David (m.david@uq.edu.au)
Matthew Barber (matt.barber88@gmail.com)
Hannah Carter (hannah.carter@qut.edu.au)
Sharon Mickan (sharon.mickan@health.qld.gov.au)
Kelly Weir (kelly.weir@griffith.edu.au)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for your email dated 26th January, 2018. Our team are grateful for your review of the delay in process of our manuscript; however, we are also mindful and appreciative of the ongoing consideration of our study protocol. Please find below point-by-point responses to the questions you have raised:

Q1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation. Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, bmcpalliatcare@biomedcentral.com. Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system. If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable
person at the institution. Please also include the original documents. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to bmcpalliatcare@biomedcentral.com.

Reply: I can confirm that I have sent the following original documents to bmcpalliatcare@biomedcentral.com on 29/1/18:

- Successful grant letter from government funding body, Allied Health Professions of Queensland

- Human Research Ethics Committee approval, Children’s Health Queensland (CHQ)

- Ethical Review Committee, Department of Human Services (Medicare)

- Ethical approval, Department of Education & Training (Queensland Government)

In summary, these documents support the implementation of the submitted study protocol through a successful research grant (competitive review process) and relevant ethical approvals across 3 sectors – Queensland Health (Statewide body), Department of Education & Training (Statewide body) and Department of Human Services (Federal governing body for Medicare Australia).

Q2. Funding: A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.
Reply: The study has been externally funded by a governmental grant provided by Allied Health Professions of Queensland (AHPOQ, Queensland Health, Australia) through the 2017 Health Practitioner Research Scheme – Experienced Researcher Scheme. The study design has already undergone peer review with AHPOQ, including peer review of the original grant application and subsequent face-to-face panel interview with experts in the field.

Q3. Study status: The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

Reply: I can confirm that the study is currently in the data collection period, as the study only recently commenced in October 2017. This information has been added under the ‘Trial status’ section of the revised manuscript.

Q4. Related Articles. Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

Reply: The results from this study protocol have not been published or submitted to any journal, as we are still in the data collection period.

Q5. Please include the Trial Registration date in the Trial Registration information at the end of the abstract.

Reply: The registration date of 14th August, 2017 has been added to the amended abstract in the revised submission.

Q6. Please include a consent to participate statement in the "Ethics approval and consent to participate" section of the Declarations. If a consent to participate statement is already present within the main text/Methods section that gives the above information, please also copy/place it under this sub-section.
Reply: This has been added to the revised manuscript, under the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations. The same information has been added in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section in the main text, under “Ethics approval” section in the revised manuscript.

Q7. Please include an "Acknowledgements" section to the Declarations.

Reply: An acknowledgements section has been added to the Declarations in the revised manuscript.

Q8. The individual contributions of ALL authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here:

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

Reply: This section has been modified in the revised manuscript, utilising similar wording found on the website link provided above.

Q9. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.

Reply: The figures have now been added to the revised manuscript after the references section, under the title of “figures legends.” The titles and legends associated with the image are separated from the actual image, as requested above.

Q10. Can you please include a completed SPIRIT checklist as an additional file when submitting your revised manuscript. We appreciate that not all sections of the checklist may be applicable to your manuscript in which case, they can be omitted.
Reply: A SPIRIT checklist has been included as an additional file in the revised submission.

Q11. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, 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.

Reply: Completed.