Author's response to reviews

Title: Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis and its Impact in the U.S.: The STEP-ED study

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Version: 3 Date: 24 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Attached is our protocol for publication in BMC Psychiatry. The study is titled *STEP-ED: Reducing the Duration of Untreated Psychosis and its Impact in the U.S.*

We would like to make the protocol widely available by publishing in this open access journal for the following major reasons. (a) The challenge of reducing DUP has become a project of worldwide interest since the publication of 2 independent systematic reviews establishing an association between DUP and early outcomes in psychotic illness. There are, however, complex methodological decisions confronting the researcher who wishes to demonstrate the impact of an intervention on this outcome in any system of care. As a consequence, our research group has already received requests for information about our design and we would like to make our protocol widely available for the use of other groups; (b) In the spirit of being transparent about our a priori hypotheses and analytic plan.

This 5 year study has been funded by the U.S. National Institutes for Health (R01MH103831), has received ethics approval from our Institutional Review Board (Yale University Human Investigation Committee, HIC Protocol Number: 1310012846). We have forwarded the ethics approval and funding announcement documents to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.
Also, the study has been appropriately registered (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02069925).

No other articles relating to the protocol have been published or are under review for publication.

Sincerely,

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