Author’s response to reviews

Title: Searching for the optimal number of response alternatives for the distress scale of the Four Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire

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Version: 5 Date: 27 Dec 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear reviewers,

I added the requested information to the Ethics Approval and informed consent paragraph in the Declarations section:

The data sets that we used in our study had been already collected when we designed the current study. Formal ethical approval is not applicable as all data analyzed had been done so retrospectively. Furthermore, all data collections were in line with section 12 of the Dutch Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act, which states that “the person responsible for carrying out the study must ensure that the privacy of the participating subject is protected to the highest possible degree. Part of this is ensuring that registration of research data must in principal take place anonymously, in such a way that no personal information is stated during the gathering of data.” Furthermore, all participants provided informed consent by signing an agreement at intake that contains regulations with regard to privacy code.

Kind regards, also on behalf of all coauthors,

Jan van Bebber