Title: How do community-based eye care practitioners approach depression in patients with low vision? A mixed methods study

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Version: 3 Date: 29 Nov 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Many thanks for your prompt reply to our re-submission. We have addressed the two comments as follows:

1. In your Ethics approval section, please clarify whether consent obtained from participants was written or verbal. If consent was obtained verbally please include reasoning for this and state if an IRB approved this method of obtaining consent.

RESPONSE: We can confirm that the participants who chose to complete a telephone interview provided verbal rather than written consent. This was outlined in the ethics application and approved by the School of Optometry Ethics Adits Committee, Cardiff University. The text from the ethics application reads: "Practitioners who agree to take part in an individual interview will be offered a day and time convenient to them and can meet face-to-face or on the telephone. If meeting face-to-face, they will be asked to sign a paper consent form. If conducting the interview by telephone, they will be asked for verbal consent. The recording will then be stopped and restarted for the interview, so that consent can be kept separately from the interview for confidentiality reasons."

We have added text to the manuscript under the 'Declarations - Ethics Section' to summarise this (page 34, lines 12-18). The text reads: "Participants who opted for a telephone interview gave verbal consent on the telephone. This was audio recorded separately to the interview, to allow separate storage and thereby preserve confidentiality. The rationale for this method was that the participant should ideally give consent in the presence of the researcher with the opportunity to ask any questions, and was considered preferable to obtaining written consent without the researcher present, prior to the interview. The Ethics Committee named above approved this method of consent."
2. Please proofread and ensure that when you upload your revised submission it is in the final form for publication. Please remove any tracked changes or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

RESPONSE: We have proofread the manuscript and can confirm it is in the final form for publication.

We look forward to your final decision letter.

Kind regards, Claire Nollett