Author’s response to reviews

Title: Protocol of a two arm randomised, multi-centre, 12-month controlled trial: Evaluating the impact of a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)-based intervention Supporting UPtake and Adherence to antiretrovirals (SUPA) in adults with HIV

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors

Thank you for your review and response which we have found extremely helpful. Please find our point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments below.

1. It has come to our attention that within your Methods and Discussion there is significant text overlap with other publications

The manuscript was checked for similarities with our group’s above-mentioned papers, and relevant sections have been re-drafted.

2. Please ensure the SUPA group are added to the submission system as authors.

The SUPA group comprises all authors added to the submission system. We were unable the add the term “SUPA Group” by the submission system.

3. Please remove the Conclusions heading, to align with editorial policy:

We have removed the Conclusions heading (see page 30-31).

4. 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 titles have now been included under a separate heading of ‘Figure Legends’ (see page 39).

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

We have removed the figure titles (see amended figure file).

6. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section.
All author contributions have now been stated (see page 34).

7. Please ensure the contributions of the SUPA group are noted in the Authors' Contributions section.

All authors individually listed comprise the SUPA group. This has been clarified under the authors contributions (see page 34-35).

8. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, will be obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section.

We have added the following statement on page 33: Written informed consent will be obtained from all participants.

9. Thank you for providing your SPIRIT checklist. However, at this stage it is not required and so we kindly ask that you remove it from your manuscript.

The SPIRIT checklist has been removed from our submission.

Additional changes: Reference list

We checked the referencing for the unvalidated entries (1,6,14,19,33) in your report. These have been re-entered within the manuscript.

At the last revision we uploaded the wrong file - the Figure legends and Table titles should now be correct.