Author’s response to reviews

Title: Developing a group intervention to manage fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis through modifying physical activity

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Author’s response to reviews:

20th November 2018

Dear Dr Peluso,

Re: “Developing a group intervention to manage fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis through modifying physical activity”

Many thanks for sending the reviewers comments for the above manuscript. Please see below our responses to the comments:

• Why and how is this study important?

We have outlined the importance of fatigue as a symptom of rheumatoid arthritis and the need for evidence-based interventions to improve fatigue management, including the potential benefit
of physical activity interventions within the background of the manuscript (p.5, line 94-104). We have also highlighted the importance of a systematic approach to intervention development that considers the views, preferences and needs of patients and healthcare professionals who might receive/deliver an intervention. We have added the following sentence to the conclusion for further emphasis (line 539): “This preliminary stage of development was important to ensure explicit links between the underpinning theory, mediating pathways and intervention outcomes thus facilitating future implementation and evaluation.”

• Table 1 has been removed and replaced with a summary in the text (line 261)

• The conclusion has been modified to read: “The feasibility of further evaluation now needs to be determined by further investigation of acceptability, implementation and practicality of the intervention.” (line 544)

• The reviewer asks if all the references are necessary. We feel that the comprehensive nature of this manuscript will be of benefit to the reader as it highlights important and useful literature relating to intervention development.

We hope these revisions adequately address the reviewer’s queries.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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