Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with diabetes-related distress over time among patients with T2DM in a tertiary hospital in Singapore

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. In the Methods section please provide references for question 22 from the World Health Organisation Quality of Life Brief questionnaire measuring support from friends, the presenteeism question and the Kessler-10 Psychological Distress Scale.

Response: Thank for the reminder to include the references. We have included the references for all the instruments used.

“2) Question 22 from the World Health Organisation Quality of Life Brief questionnaire measuring support from friends (8). Presenteeism was measured using the modified question “On a scale of 0 “Least effective” to 10 “Most effective”, how effective are you at work?” (9). Depression was captured using Kessler-10 Psychological Distress Scale (10). ” Methods section, line 87-90, page 5.
2. In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section please provide the full name of the IRB who approved your study including which nation they represent.

Response: We have included the full name of the IRB who approved the study.

“The Domain Specific Review Board (DSRB) of the National Healthcare Group (NHG) reviewed and approved the study protocol. The NHG DSRB represents the Republic of Singapore.” Declarations section, line 199-200, page 9.

3. Please use initials only rather than full names in the Authors’ contributions section.

Response: Thank you for the reminder. We have revised the contribution section to only include the initials of the authors.

“MLT performed the statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. CST provided the expertise on statistical analysis. EYHK, HLW, KG and YSL wrote the protocol and designed the study. JL and EST provided expert opinion on the design of the study, the analyses of the paper and the interpretation of the results and discussion. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.” Section Authors’ contributions, line 213-217, page 10.

We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of Jeannette Lee (JL) and TAI E Shyong (EST), as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Providing opinion, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND

c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
Response: Thank you for note. I have provided more justification for the contributions of both Jeannette Lee (JL) and TAI E Shyong (EST). Please see the revised contributions.

“Jeannette Lee and TAI E Shyong provided expert opinion on the design of the study, the analyses of the paper and the interpretation of the results and discussion.” Authors’ contribution section, line 215-217, page 10.

Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

4. We note that you have not included an acknowledgements section. If you have no acknowledgements please put ‘Not Applicable’ in this section.

Response: Thank you for the reminder to indicate NA to the acknowledgements section. We have included that in the manuscript.

“Acknowledgements

Not applicable” Section Acknowledgement, line 193, page 9.

5. Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Response: Thank you for the note. We have included a table of abbreviations.

“Abbreviations

BMI - Body Mass Index
DRD - Diabetes-Related Distress
6. We note that you have included an Appendix 1a and 1b in the response to the reviewers. Please could you clarify whether you wish Appendix 1a and 1b to be included with your published article. If you wish them to be included please upload them as supplementary material files and include after the the References, a section titled “Additional files” where you list the following information about each of your supplementary files: * File name (e.g. Additional file 1), * Title of data, * Description of data. Please ensure also they have been cited in the main manuscript.

Response: Appendix 1a and 1b was provided to the reviewers in response to their queries. We were not planning to include it into the published article.

7. Please submit your revised manuscript as a clean copy without any tracked changes, coloured or highlighted text, as these are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process.

Response: We have revised the manuscript based on the above comments and have provided a clean copy with this response letter. Thank you.