Author’s response to reviews

Title: “I was able to eat what I am supposed to eat”– Patient reflections on a medically-tailored meal intervention: A qualitative analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editor Comments:

1. Please ensure that all sections are formatted and located to our submission guidelines (https://bmcendocrdisord.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article). Please also ensure that all sections have titles that match the titles provided in the submission guidelines.

Response: We have formatted the section to conform to the submission guidelines. Please let us know if we have overlooked anything.

2. Your study falls within the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)” definition of a clinical trial: any research study that prospectively assigns human subjects to one or more health related interventions to evaluate the effects on health or biological outcomes. As such, Biomed Central requires that a Trial Registration Number is provided in order for the manuscript to be published.

Although a TRN is usually required prior to the start of the peer-review process, the BMC-series journals does accept retrospectively registered trials. If you have not registered the trial, we
therefore request that you do so as soon as possible so that your study can be accepted for publication. All trials must be registered with a WHO approved registry, as listed in the WHO guide: http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/primary/en/.

Once you know your trial registration number, please submit a revised version of your manuscript with the number and date of registration included in the abstract. The last section of the abstract should be Trial Registration: listing the trial registry and the unique identifying number, e.g. Trial registration: Current Controlled Trials ISRCTN73824458, as well as the date of registration. Please note that there should be no space between the letters and numbers of the trial registration number. If registration took place after the first participant was enrolled, please state also “Retrospectively registered” at the end of this section.

Response: We have added the trial number to the abstract. It was previously listed in the methods section.

3. In the Ethics approval and consent for participation section, please clarify if the ethics committee approved both study protocols. Please also clarify if the ethics committee approved the use of verbal consent.

Response: We have clarified this in the Ethics approval and consent for participation section.

4. We note that you have not included a ‘Consent for publication’ section in the Declarations. If identifying images or other personal or clinical details of participants are presented that compromise anonymity, a statement of consent to publish from the patient should be included. This section must be included even if it is not applicable to your manuscript. If consent to publish is not applicable to your manuscript please write ‘Not Applicable’ in this section. Please also clarify if written informed consent was obtained for the publication of quotes.

Response: We have added the consent for publication section and noted that it was not applicable. We have also added, in the ethics approval and consent for participation section, that verbal consent was obtained for publication of quotes under the condition that the quotes used would not compromise anonymity.

5. Please remove the "Prior Presentation" section and include this information under the acknowledgements.

Response: We have moved this as requested.

6. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.
Response: We have indicated that the funding organizations had no role in the design of the study or collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

7. Please remove the "Disclosures" section and include this information under the required declarations section competing interests.

Response: we have reformatted this as requested.

8. Please remove any additional files you do not want published alongside your manuscript, including cover/response letters.

Response: We have removed all unnecessary files

9. Please put your responses to the reviewers'/editors’ comments in the Response to Reviewers box in Editorial Manager. Please do not upload a separate letter. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Additional files should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional-supplementary files are cited within the text.

Response: we have uploaded these responses within Editorial Manager

Reviewer 1 and Reviewer 2 had no further comments to respond to.