Author’s response to reviews

Title: How do we incorporate patient views into the design of health-care services for older people: a discussion paper

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Editor Comments: Given the nature of this manuscript and following the comments of the reviewers, please revise and resubmit it as a "debate" rather than "research" article. We agree. It has now been submitted as a ‘debate’ article. Reviewer 1 comments: Background re 15 peri-implantitis (instead of mucositis?), 26 poor references with only examples of the Netherlands and UK and 37 Birch …- reference? These have been corrected. Re 26, this has only been undertaken in these two countries. Birch reference has been added. The introduction should concentrate more on patient centred care. The basis of the article is to highlight the importance of taking a patient-led approach. Background and introduction should be separated and for the reader's comfort it is better to put the aim of the study at the end of the introduction. This has been amended. There is some contradiction between the aim of the study and the end of the actual introduction. The aim is to explore some approaches in the design of health care services for older people and the end of the introduction already provides us with an answer on this research question. As highlighted above, this is a ‘debate’ article and so we feel that this comment is less relevant. The introduction section has been restructured in line with a debate paper. Methods/design is the most important part of the article but cannot be considered as a 'method' or 'design'. This looks like a commentary on approaches already undertaken in the Netherlands, Ireland and the UK. This has been deleted as part of the restructuring of the paper. The reference numbers in the text do not always correspond with the numbers in the reference list. These have been amended. Conclusion: this is not a conventional article but rather an interesting report with a useful commentary on some approaches.
in the design of health care services for older people already undertaken and described in The Netherlands, Ireland and the UK. It should be useful for the reader to change the title in this way. The paper has been submitted as a ‘debate’ paper and the title changed. Reviewer 21. The running title does not completely cover the content of the manuscript, because the authors don't discuss the "how" but they only describe 4 proposed possible strategies. The four proposed strategies are the most common and current methods to ensure a patient-led approach. 2. In the abstract, I miss the aim of this manuscript. This has been amended. 3. Background section: not only in the UK many older people will have most or all of their natural teeth but also in other industrial countries. This has been amended. 4. The authors describe (poor) oral health issues for all older people. However most of these oral health (care) issues involve frail and care dependent older people, not robust older people. It is important to differentiate groups of older people (see also the article of Pretty et al, The Seattle Care Pathway for securing oral health in older patients, Gerodontology, 2014). These groups may also have different views on oral health care services. The manuscript would be improved when the authors add some remarks on this. This has been amended. 5. The abstract contains a discussion. However, I miss the discussion section in the article for the authors to discuss the pro- and cons of the 4 proposed methodological approaches, which next steps should be made and what the possible inhibiting and enabling factors are to implement such type of research. This has been amended.