Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial of facilitated family case conferencing compared with usual care for improving end of life care and outcomes in nursing home residents with advanced dementia and their families: the IDEAL study protocol

Authors:

Meera Agar (meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)
Elizabeth Beattie (elizabeth.beattie@qut.edu.au)
Tim Luckett (tim.luckett@uts.edu.au)
Jane Phillips (jane.phillips@uts.edu.au)
Georgina Luscombe (georgina.luscombe@sydney.edu.au)
Stephen Goodall (stephen.goodall@uts.edu.au)
Geoffrey Mitchell (g.mitchell@uq.edu.au)
Dimity Pond (dimity.pond@newcastle.edu.au)
Patricia Davidson (p davidson@jhu.edu)
Lynnette Chenoweth (lynette.chenoweth@uts.edu.au)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for your email dated 5th November in which you communicated the following editorial requests relating to our manuscript entitled ‘Pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial of facilitated family case conferencing versus usual care for improving end of life care and outcomes in nursing home residents with advanced dementia and their families: a study protocol for the IDEAL Project’.

There are some revisions to the text that I would be grateful if you could make at this stage:

1) Trial registration: please add the registration date alongside the registration number.

2) Funding and peer review: please move this text into an Acknowledgements section.
We have made these changes to a new version of the manuscript which we have uploaded through BMC’s online system.

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system. If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

Also, please confirm that the ethics approval covers all of the sites at which patients are to be studied.

I can confirm that I sent an email on 6th November to the requested email address attaching letters that confirm ethical approval and funding for this study. I can confirm that the letter of ethical approval covers all sites that have participated in the project.

2. Study status

The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

I can confirm that data analysis is still very much in progress for this study.

3. Related Articles

Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

No related articles have yet been published. Our preferred order of publication will be: 1) protocol manuscript; 2) primary results manuscript; 3) other manuscripts reporting on secondary endpoints and qualitative sub-study.

I look forward to hearing your decision regarding publication.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Luckett