Author’s response to reviews

Title: Palliative care specialists' perceptions concerning referral of haematology patients to their services: findings from a qualitative study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Re: Palliative care specialists’ perceptions concerning referral of haematology patients to their services: findings from a qualitative study (PCAR-D-17-00183)

We are pleased that our manuscript is now potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Palliative Care. We thank the Editor for bringing a number of further essential revisions to our attention, which we have addressed below:
Editor’s Comments:

Comment 1: Unfortunately BMC does not accept boxes for publication. Please remove the Boxes and include the information in a different format.

Response: We have renamed the Topic guide, which is now Table 1. We have renamed all Boxes containing verbatim quotations, which are now Tables 1-11. All Tables are sited within the appropriate text in the Manuscript.

Comment 2: If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations should be provided in the Declarations.

Response: Abbreviations are all now defined in the text at first use and a list of abbreviations has been added to the Declarations section.

Comment 3: Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

Response: The title of the Figure is now included in the heading ‘Figure titles/ legends’, which has been inserted after the References.

Comment 4: Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.
Response: The Figure file now only contains the image/graphic.

Comment 5: 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. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: Our manuscript has been uploaded as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant figures are also clean versions. Figures have been uploaded as separate files.