Author’s response to reviews

Title: The impact of population ageing on end-of-life care in Scotland: Projections of place of death and recommendations for future service provision

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Author’s response to reviews:

1. Overlap

-- We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0269216319844405

This overlap mainly exists throughout your manuscript.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in this publication, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

If there is overlap in the Methods section, please ensure to summarize the methods and cite the source.

Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Authors response:
The previous work relates directly to this project. It is an abstract describing a poster with preliminary findings which we presented at the European Association for Palliative Care conference in May 2019.
It is normal practice in our field to present preliminary data at conferences prior to publication of the full work. Furthermore, we note that the BMC editorial policy states that work based on prior abstracts presented at conferences up to 400 words (ours is less than 400) are permissible:

“Abstracts/posters
Prior abstracts of up to 400 words and posters presented at, or published as part of, academic meetings do not preclude consideration for peer review of a full manuscript, as the full manuscript represents a formal advance to the citable scientific record. Published abstracts should be cited. See https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#duplicate+publication

We note that the previous abstract should be cited, and we not have included the citation, as you have suggested, in the Acknowledgments section.

2. Abstract

If the above overlap is due to a previously presented abstract (https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0269216319844405), please clearly state this under acknowledgements, along with a reference and full name of the conference.

Authors response:
Please see above.
We now include the conference details in the Acknowledgements.

3. Editorial Board Member

-- As one of the authors is a member of the editorial board (Associate Editor) of this journal, in order to ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations. Please also add a statement to say that they had no role in the editorial process in the manuscript.

Authors response:
Thanks for the guidance. I joined the team following submission of the paper. I now refer to this in the Competing interests section.

4. Authors Contributions

-- We notice that authors CJE, BG, RM and IJH are missing from the authors' contributions section. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

Authors response: the contribution of all authors has now been specified.

5. Funding

-- In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Authors response: The funder was not directly involved in the design, data collection etc. Anne Finucane and Richard Meade, who are employed by the funder, were involved in aspects of the study.
We have clarified the contributions of Anne and Richard, and note that both are employed by Marie Curie for transparency. We also note that the views expressed within the manuscript are the those of the individual authors (i.e not the funder).

6. Additional Files

-- Please also add a section “Additional files” where you list the following information about your supplementary material:
- File name
- Title of data
- Description of data

Please ensure that all additional files are explicitly referred to in the main text.

Authors response: Now added; and referred to in the main text.

7. Acknowledgements

-- Please specify in your response that you have permission to use full names under 'Acknowledgements'.

Authors response: We have permission to use the names noted in the acknowledgements.

8. Tracked Changes

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. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Authors response: Clean version uploaded.

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Authors response: All cited.