Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Association Between Hope, Marital Status, Depression and Persistent Pain in Men and Women Following Cardiac Surgery

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Aimee Cummings, Editor, BMC Women’s Health

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled "The Association Between Hope, Marital Status, Depression and Persistent Pain in Men and Women Following Cardiac Surgery" (BMWH-D-17-00157R2). We thank the Editor for the comments and advice, and are grateful for the opportunity to make the suggested amendments to improve the quality of our manuscript. We hope the article now meets the standards required for publication in BMC Women’s Health. Our point-by-point response to each of the comments from the Editor is below each comment.

Response to Editor Comments

1. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11136-017-1589-2

This overlap mainly exists in your methods section, on pages 9-11

Response: We thank the Editor for making us aware of the overlapping with our previous publication. We have carefully revised the Methods section, and have re-written pages 9 to 11. We have also removed/changed the sub-headings in this section to make sure that the text does not overlap with previous publication.
2. 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: We have uploaded the manuscript as a single, clean version without track changes or comments.