Author’s response to reviews

Title: Assessing the Consultation and Relational Empathy (CARE) Measure in sexual health nurses' consultations

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Version: 3 Date: 10 Nov 2017

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NURS-D-16-00084R2

Assessing the Consultation and Relational Empathy (CARE) Measure in sexual health nurses' consultations Annemieke P Bikker; Bridie Fitzpatrick; Douglas Murphy; Lorraine Forster; Stewart W Mercer BMC Nursing

Dear Aimee Cummings,

Thanks for your comments. Please see below our responses to your queries.

Kind regards,

Annemieke Bikker
1. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


This overlap is found throughout your manuscript. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Response:

- We have checked the previously submitted manuscript through Turnitin UK text-matching software and the turnitin report shows 16% overlap with the above paper. This was mainly due to single sentences of parts of sentences, so we do not feel this constitutes a significant use of text from our previously published papers. However, where possible we have rephrased the sentences in the current manuscript.

2. In your "ethical approval and consent to participate" section, please could you clearly state and provide reference to the national guidelines that state that you did not need informed consent to be provided by the participants in this study.

Response:

- We have rephrased this section and included a reference [43] to the guidelines (page 16 lines 359-364).

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

Response:

- The funder was not involved in the completion of this study and we have included this in the Funding section as requested (page 17).

4. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of LF and SM as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to one aspect of research alone, does not usually justify authorship.
An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) Made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND

b) Been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND

c) Given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND

d) Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

Response:

- All authors did make substantive contributions to the study and we have corrected our mistake (page 17). Thank you.

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.