Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact on healthcare resource utilization of multiple sclerosis in Spain

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-Chief:

We submit our revised manuscript "Impact on healthcare resource utilization of multiple sclerosis in Spain" (BHSR-D-17-00961) incorporating all the suggestions and comments.

Below you can find a point-by-point response to each of the issues. In addition, we highlighted the changes within the manuscript using colored text.

Sincerely yours,

The authors

Editor

1. Describe the data source for the days absent from work: was this recorded in the medical record, did you conduct a survey of patients, or use some other data source?

The data source for the days off work due to sick leave was a specific computer program managed by the primary care physician.

This information was included in the revised manuscript (page 6).
2. Please justify the use of the linear regression model to predict costs. Was a log cost model or generalized linear model tested in order to handle the non-normal distribution of costs?

A generalized linear model was used to analyze costs between each disability group. A multiple linear regression model was used to evaluate the variables associated to the costs.

This information was included in the revised manuscript (pages 6 and 7).

3. In Table 1, consider a more descriptive label than "special care" or add a footnote describing what special care means.

Following the editor’s suggestion, we added a footnote in Table 1 explaining what special care means (neurology visits).

4. In Table 2, consider adding the values to the RUB's since 1-5 doesn't mean anything.

Following the editor’s suggestion, we added in table 2 the values of each category of resource utilization bands.