Author’s response to reviews

Title: Using information and communication technologies to involve patients and the public in health education in rural and remote areas: a scoping review

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Author’s response to reviews:

Quebec, December 22, 2018

Maria Elisabeth Johanna Zalm, Ph.D.
BMC Health Services Research

Dear Dr Zalm:

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled “Using information and communication technologies to involve patients and the public in health education in rural and remote areas: a scoping review” for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

The present manuscript reports the results of a scoping review whose objective was to explore information and communication technologies (ICT) used for patient and public involvement (PPI) in health education programs in rural and remote areas. Our results suggest that the main ICTs used were telephone and Internet, followed by teleconference, electronic health record, and weblogs (n=1). No study measured the effectiveness of ICT for involving patients in health education in rural and remote areas.

We thank the reviewer for their thoughtful comments on the final review of the paper. To this end, we have modified our manuscript (with tracked changes) as follows below:
We corrected the typo in the Abstract, page 2, line 2 changing "(PPI) in a practice" to "(PPI) is a practice".

We removed the word ‘systematic’ from ‘systematic scoping review’ in the Abstract, page 2, line 11.

We reinserted the referring to our search strategy and Appendix A in the Methods section. This now reads: “The search strategy is outlined in Appendix A which can be found in the online appendices supplementary to this manuscript.” found on page 5, line 23-24.

We thank the reviewer for noting this oversight. We have updated our manuscript to include the year which can be found on page 4, line 21.

We corrected the typo on page 6, lines 11-12. The sentence now reads "the characteristics of the studies in which these PPI activities took place…

We modified and corrected the sentence on page 6, line 18 originally reading "…we kept five articles were included…” to now “…we retained 5 articles to comprise the body of this review.”

The manuscript is not under consideration for publication elsewhere and no paper related to this study has been published. Each author contributed significantly to this study and declare no conflicts of interest. All authors have approved the enclosed manuscript.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Health Services Research. We look forward to your response. If there are any questions regarding the manuscript, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure