Dear BMC Health Services Research Editorial Office,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled: ‘Diabetes distress in Indonesian patients with type 2 diabetes: a comparison between primary and secondary care’ BHSR-D-18-01610.

In the following sections we have addressed in detail the points raised by the editor and replied to each point in turn. We think we have addressed all suggestions and feel the manuscript has been substantially improved.

All the authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the revised manuscript being submitted. The manuscript is not currently being considered elsewhere. If accepted, it will not be
published elsewhere, including electronically, in the same form, in English or any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

We hope that the revised manuscript meets the high standards of your journal.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our revised manuscript and look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
Bustanul Arifin,
Antoinette D.I. van Asselt,
Didik Setiawan,
Jarir At Thobari,
Maarten J. Postma, and
Qi Cao.

1. You state that your research took place at several locations. Can you please confirm whether ethics approval was required from local ethics committees at each of these sites?

In Indonesia, not all areas have ethics committees. Generally, obtaining ethics approval is done through a limited number of Government-recommended state universities, one of which is Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta.

Were several ethics committees consulted for your research? If not, please explain why.

In this study, although the main researcher is an Indonesian, the affiliation was the University of Groningen so that the management of the research permit had to go through the Ministry of Home Affairs (KEMENDAGRI). The Ministry issued a research recommendation and sent it to the provinces and regencies where the proposed research was to be carried out. Our study was
approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs with letter number 440.02 / 4480 on 25 November 2014.

In addition, we also obtained a research permit from the Central BPJS with document number 856 / Bang / 0914 on September 17, 2014. Based on this Central BPJS permit, we were able to collaborate with BPJS branches in the provinces and regencies.

Please provide the full names of all IRBs which approved your study protocol. If the IRBs are too numerous to list in this section, please provide their names in an additional file and list only the main IRB in this section, citing the additional file for the names of all IRBs.

a. The Medical Ethics Committee of Universitas Gadjah Mada (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) approved the study with document number KE/FK/1188/EC on November 12th, 2014 (the approval was amended on March 16th, 2015 due to the increased number of research sites).

b. A research recommendation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

c. A research permit from the Central BPJS.

We have added these information in the revised manuscript (Page 6-7, Methods, Study design and research sites, line 154-63), as follows:

The Medical Ethics Committee of Universitas Gadjah Mada (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) approved the study with document number KE/FK/1188/EC on November 12th, 2014 (the approval was amended on March 16th, 2015 due to the increased number of research sites). Furthermore, The Ministry of Home Affairs of Republic of Indonesia issued a research recommendation (number 440.02/ 4480 on 25 November 2014) and sent it to the provinces and regencies where the proposed research was to be carried out. In addition, we also obtained a research permit from the Central BPJS with document number 856/ Bang/ 0914 on September 17, 2014. Based on this Central BPJS permit, we were able to collaborate with BPJS branches in the provinces and regencies. Data collection in all health facilities obtained permission from relevant parties, such as hospital directors, head of PHCs or family doctors.

2. Were any extra permissions required for you to carry out your research in the numerous locations (e.g. pharmacies, waiting rooms, etc.)?
That permissions encompassed the different areas within the health facilities. Data collection in all health facilities obtained permission from relevant parties, such as hospital directors, Head of a PHC or family doctors.

In this revised manuscript, we have added this statement (Page 6-7, Methods, Study design and research sites, line 161-3) as follows:

Data collection in all health facilities obtained permission from relevant parties, such as hospital directors, Head of PHCs or family doctors.

3. In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section, please provide clarification on why verbal consent was obtained from the caregivers of participants with limited reading ability or physical limitations, and not written consent. Please also provide clarification on whether obtaining only verbal consent was approved by the ethics committee.

All participants not only gave verbal consent, but they also gave written consent with their caregivers as witnesses.

In this revised manuscript, we have added this information (Page 7, Methods, Participants, line 170-3), as follows:

For participants with limited reading ability or physical limitations, informed consent was given orally by the caregiver (spouses or adult children) and they also gave written consent with their caregiver as witnesses. In this study, all caregivers were aged over 18 years.

4. In your Method's section you state that 'For participants with limited reading ability or physical limitations, informed consent was given orally by the caregiver (spouses or children).’ Can you please confirm whether these children were minors? If they were, did the ethics committee approve children being able to consent for their parents?

In this study, all caregivers were aged over 18 years.

In this revised manuscript, we have stated in Page 7, Methods, Participants, line 173, as follows:

In this study, all caregivers were aged over 18 years.
5. Please remove the funding section from your title page.

In this revised manuscript, we have removed that section.

6. Please include a statement in your Funding section in your Declarations describing the role of the funding body in the design of the study, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

a. LPDP

Full scholarship for the main researcher

b. University of Groningen

Design of the study, the data collection (including salaries for research assistants), analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

In this revised manuscript, we have added this information (Page 22, Declaration, Funding, line 521-7-5), as follows:

The research was supported by a grant from Beasiswa Pendidikan Indonesia (BPI)/ LPDP (the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education, Ministry of Finance of Republic of Indonesia) with contract number 20130821080334 as the funding body. LPDP provides support of a full scholarship to the main researcher. Also, University of Groningen invested own funds in the study design, data collection (including salaries for research assistants), analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript (project code 134502).

7. Please note that if a questionnaire, survey and/or interview guide has been developed for the study, an English language version should be uploaded as a supplementary file and cited within the main text. If the questionnaire is standard, or has previously been published elsewhere, please provide the references or links to it.

If you supply any of these as supplementary files, please amend the main text accordingly and we would appreciate if you add a section ‘Supplementary files’ after the References, where you list the following information about your supplementary material:
In this revised manuscript, we have added the DDS instrument (English version as the original and DDS17 Bahasa Indonesia) as the supplementary files (Appendix 1 and 2).

8. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, 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.

We acknowledge your suggestion.