Author’s response to reviews

Title: TALKING TIME: A pilot randomized controlled trial investigating social support for informal caregivers via the telephone

Authors:

Martin Nikolaus Dichter (mail@martin.dichter.de;Martin.Dichter@dzne.de)
Bernd Albers (Bernd.Albers@dzne.de)
Diana Trutschel (Diana.Trutschel@dzne.de)
Armin Michael Ströbel (Armin-Michael.Stroebel@dzne.de)
Swantje Seismann-Petersen (Swantje.Seismann-Petersen@uksh.de)
Katharina Wermke (Katharina-Wermke@gmx.de)
Margareta Halek (Margareta.Halek@dzne.de)
Martin Berwig (Martin.Berwig@dzne.de)

Version: 1 Date: 22 Oct 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

BMC Health Services Research

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised paper “TALKING TIME: A pilot randomized controlled trial investigating social support for informal caregivers via the telephone” (BHSR-D-19-02036) by Martin Nikolaus Dichter, Bernd Albers; Diana Trutschel; Armin Michael Ströbel; Swantje Seismann-Petersen; Katharina Wermke; Margareta Halek and Martin Berwig, which we wish to resubmit for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

Thank you very much for the helpful editor comment and the opportunity to resubmit a revised version of the manuscript.

Editor’s comment

(1) Feasibility and effectiveness of a telephone-based social support intervention for informal caregivers of people with dementia: Study protocol of the TALKING TIME Project https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-017-2231-2

This overlap mainly exists in the Background and Methods section. While we understand that this is work that you have previously published, and some of the same ideas are contained in these
publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. For overlapping methodologies, it would not be conducive to future reproducibility of your study to re-word the methods section. Therefore, for any overlap in the Methods please provide a summarizing statement explaining this methodology has been published previously and provide the attribution to the sources mentioned above. For instance, at the start of any overlapping methods paragraph, you could write: “We used the methodology previously described by ________”

Author’s response:
The background section was linguistically revised to reduce the overlap. The subsections “Recruitment and Participants”, “Sample size”, “Randomization”, “Intervention”, “Outcomes” and “Statistical Analysis” were introduced as proposed by the editor.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely,

Martin Dichter on behalf of all co-authors