Reviewer’s report

Title: The lived experience of people with diabetes using off-the-shelf prescription footwear in Singapore: a qualitative study using interpretative phenomenological analysis

Version: 0 Date: 14 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Anita Williams

Reviewer’s report:

Thankyou for this very interesting paper in which you present the results of your research. there are a few minor amendments that I feel would enhance the paper.

In respect of the results of the study you have achieved your aim. However the aim needs to be referred to consistently through the paper i.e Line 49 you say that it is to 'make sense of their use of prescription footwear' whereas the aim originally seems to be focussed on '...personal experiences.....footwear decisions'. Line 34-35 you talk about the impact of prescription footwear on daily lives and perspectives on their use. The aim/s need to be consistent throughout and then the reader will be more confident about the purpose and the findings from the study.

I think you should add 'Qualitative' as the overarching approach to the research in the title. Some of the readers might not be drawn in with IPA.

Whilst it is totally acceptable to have 8 participants in a qualitative study where it gleans indepth information I think it is more appropriate to refer to these participants as 'some' people e.g in the background section of the abstract and in the text.

Method - first sentence change 'made sense' to 'understand some peoples personal experiences of...'

Method - please add that it is a qualitative study and that you used IPA as an approach to data analysis (However, if you think you whole aproach sits within the Interpretive phenomenological paradigm then you need to say this).

main body

In the discussion part you debate well about the participants and those who have come forward for this study. You also make sugestions for future research. For clarity can you add something about a sampling framework that could include a range of participants ie less of a homogenous population which you may have inadvertently created.

I like the presentation of results with the discussion embedded within - it certainly helps the reader to understand the link between your findings and previous work/theory.
Line 44 'regulate' change to influence for your themes headings please add Theme 1, Subtheme 1.1 etc next to the words.

I think it would add clarity if in the title of your themes you add in brackets the sub themes as this would illuminate what the content is at that point eg Theme 2 Acceptance (Personal and social; cultural and social)

If you have the information please can you add a table of participant demographics - this would really add insight into your study population and their responses eg. age, occupation, clinical details such as neuropathy (which is known to add to one of the safety issues with footwear - people like to have their footwear tight in order to achieve a sense of where their feet are).

Overall the conclusion is clear - please change the word regulated to influenced

A very nice paper overall that certainly adds to the body of knowledge in this area, in particular about the weather/ climatic influences on use.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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