Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of the effectiveness of a tailored cognitive behavioural therapy with a supportive listening intervention for depression in those newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis: the ACTION-MS trial: protocol of an assessor-blinded, active-comparator, randomised controlled trial

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Thank you to the reviewers for their helpful comments. As suggested, the following changes have been made to the SPIRIT checklist and the manuscript. All changes have been highlighted in yellow.

1.

Item 2b: All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set. Please state: Please refer to Item 2a and registration in Current controlled trials ISRCTN63987586
The following statement has been added next to Item 2a on the SPIRIT checklist:

Please refer to Item 2a and registration in Current controlled trials ISRCTN63987586

2.

Item 30: Provisions for post-trial care - you could state "There is no anticipated harm and compensation for trial participation" and it would be helpful to know if there will be any provision for post-trial care.

The following statement has been placed next to Item 30 on the SPIRIT checklist:

There is no anticipated harm and compensation for trial participation. Participants will be provided with referral options to mental health providers post-trial.

3.

Item 31b: page 17, 18 you state the author contributions please insert page number into checklist or you could also state "All named authors adhere to the authorship guidelines of Trials. All authors have agreed to publication." Or All authors have contributed to writing the manuscript as detailed p18, no professional writers have been involved.

The following statement has been placed next to Item 31b:

PAGE 17, 18

All named author adhere to the authorship guidelines of Trials. All authors have agreed to publication. No professional writers have been involved.

4.

Item 32: This item is referred to in Item 26a and cannot be N/A. Where can the reader obtain the Informed consent form. If not in appendix then please state where it can be obtained or perhaps state "These are available from the corresponding author on request."

The following statement has been placed next to Item 32:

These are available from the corresponding author upon request.
5.

References: There were 10 articles that could not be checked, please check format for websites, include date checked and ensure sufficient information as in guidelines below. Two articles was not validated (https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol/#references).

References have been checked to make sure that they are consistent with the guidelines for references for the Trials journal. Websites accessed have been included. Dates websites have been accessed have also been included.