

Author's response to reviews

Title: Training community resource center and clinic personnel to prompt patients in listing questions for doctors: a descriptive study of barriers and facilitators to the implementation of Consultation Planning

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Author's response to reviews:

Brian Mittman, US Editor-in-Chief
and colleagues
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Dear Editor,

It is a pleasure to resubmit this revised manuscript, which was originally submitted under 1801371066112111. The reviewers provided concrete comments, and the research team sought out expert advice and guidance to address these comments.

First, we were encouraged that reviewers felt this was a worthwhile topic. As a developer of the Consultation Planning intervention, I felt that we would learn a tremendous amount by following up with external visitors who had attended our internal training workshops as guests, and that your readers would benefit from an account of these follow-up interviews. We know so little about how dissemination efforts like this one translate into implementation or non-implementation, especially in the field of shared decision making, where I locate Consultation Planning as a visit preparation intervention.

However, the reviewers pointed out that our first submission communicated poorly the design and methods employed in this study, and that we mistakenly stated that we were developing grounded theory. I took over primary authorship from the study's research assistant, who had led the first submission, and as part of a career development award, took a course in qualitative research methods from Professor Elizabeth Boyd at the University of California, San Francisco. Under Professor Boyd's supervision, as instructed by the reviewers, I read part or all of some of the classic texts in qualitative research. I now cite in

the paper the two most helpful, namely Carol Grbich's very recent (2007) book and Miles and Huberman's classic text, both entitled Qualitative Data Analysis. This training allowed me to communicate more effectively with members of the research team who had greater experience in qualitative methods, and together we incorporated many of the reviewers' suggestions.

Specifically, we rectified the confusion pointed out by one reviewer regarding the Introduction, in which we implied that Consultation Planning was a decision aid intervention by citing decision aid literature. We now properly locate Consultation Planning in a stream of research on visit preparation. We also focused on the methods section, describing our analysis as descriptive, involving some quantitative tallying of frequencies, as well as the thematic coding of interview data. We made substantial revisions to the rest of the paper as well.

I am confident that the paper is much improved, thanks to your reviewers, Professor Boyd's guidance, and our efforts. I also know that the process of revising this paper has helped my colleagues and I learn valuable lessons from our early efforts at dissemination. Our follow-up interviews with trainees led us to form a community-based research partnership with two of the implementing resource centers. We are on our third funded study with these partners, and will soon begin to report on our findings. As a researcher, I cherish the opportunity to read a full accounting of other groups' efforts, including early initiatives that generate hypotheses and establish research directions. I hope your journal will give other groups the opportunity to follow the trail that has led my colleagues and I in a very fruitful direction, working with rural resource centers in underserved communities to implement a visit preparation intervention. This paper recounts the first step in what is turning out to be a successful translation of research in an urban academic setting into practice in a rural community setting.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance as you consider this manuscript for publication.

Regards,

Jeff Belkora