

BMJ -
Decision on
Manuscript
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Body: 05-Jul-2019

Dear Dr. Allsopp,

Manuscript ID BMJ-2019-050533 entitled "Responding to mental health needs after mass casualty terror attacks: Serious problems identified after the 2005 London Bombings still remain"

Thank you for letting us consider your resubmitted manuscript, which we discussed at our editorial meeting. We are pleased to make a provisional offer of publication if you are able to revise it to address the points made by the reviewers and the editors. We felt the article would benefit from a patient review. The comments of the patient reviewer are available at the end of this letter.

We have provisionally edited the article and inserted some queries and requests for clarification into the text. The provisional edit is attached to this email as a Word file.

We are hoping to publish the paper in print in the next few weeks. In order for this to be possible, we would ideally need the revised paper to be back with us in the next 7 days. I appreciate it is coming up to the summer holiday period where many people may be away, so if you foresee that it might not be possible to resubmit in this time, please do let me know.

When you resubmit, could you kindly ensure that you provide:

- (a) A covering letter outlining how you have responded, or not responded and why, to both the referees comments and those of the editors.
- (b) A word count (excluding the references and words in boxes and tables). You should aim to keep this count below or very close to 2000 words.
- (c) Please check that all the information required in the manuscript (see note below) is included in the revised manuscript.

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* Signed patient consent form(s), if the article gives enough personal information about any patient(s): - (see http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/editorial-policies/copy_of_patient-confidentiality)

I hope this information will be useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at all. Otherwise, I look forward to receiving your revision.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Emma Rourke
Associate editor for analysis, the BMJ
erourke@bmj.com

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:

Comments:

The paper concerns the serious matter of responding to mental health needs after mass casualty terror attacks. It highlights that serious problems identified after the 2005 London Bombings still remain.

The paper outlines how the design of a mental health response should take into account the nature of the terrorist event and associated organisational challenges. The paper is clear, informative and easy to understand.

The paper references the important finding that survivors of terrorist attacks with mental health problems were unlikely to be detected via conventional routes such as primary care, thus necessitating outreach. The learning identified from outreach attempts after recent terrorist attacks highlights gaps in service provision and uptake.

The paper goes on to make the highly apposite point that Local Trusts should not have to operate 'at risk' in responding to incidents which may involve survivors from across the U.K. and beyond, and that commissioning arrangements should recognise that incidents may require a coordinated national response.

The barriers to appropriate and adequate response posed by problems regarding data-sharing are of note given the current debate regarding the adaptive, acceptable and meaningful use of patient data. The paper makes the excellent point with reference to better comparative practice in the US, that In the U.K., work on a health register protocol for major incidents was initiated in 2012 by Public Health England but has not been completed. Such a register would improve subsequent outreach attempts using mobile phone and email contact.

Overall this is a useful and highly informative paper which is of relevance to all potential stakeholders including patients and their carers.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Dr Sarah Markham

Job Title: Visiting Researcher

Institution: King's College London

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests (please see BMJ policy) please declare them here: I have none to declare.

Date Sent: 05-Jul-2019

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