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LETTER

Global economic burden of schizophrenia: response to authors' reply

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Dear editor

For clarification, we undertook bottom-up costing using individual participant data from the Low Prevalence Disorders Study in our costing study.[1] We did not use the data reported in the study by Carr et al[2] as asserted by Chong et al.[3] Chong et al have thus misunderstood and thus misrepresented our methodology in both their systematic review[4] and their response to our letter.[5]

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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Authors' reply

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Dear editor

We thank Dr Neil and Professor Carr for their clarification on the data source used in their study.[1] In this regard, we would like to highlight one of the most common challenges when conducting any systematic review, for example economic burden of schizophrenia in this case – the marked diversity in reporting among the included studies, which increases the likelihood of any potential misinterpretation. In convergence with a number of published systematic reviews of economic burden studies,[2–5] there has been a consistent call for a more explicit reporting in various aspects of an economic burden study, thus readability and transparency can be enhanced. However, a standardized guide/checklist for conducting and reporting economic burden is yet to be available. On the final note, we strongly urge for the development of such a guidance document to improve the quality and clarity of an economic burden study.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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