






## Components of Collective Coping in Families Facing Chronic Illness

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction states, “Chronic illness represents a prolonged health condition that fundamentally alters the dynamics of family life” (p.3). Consider citing recent prevalence or burden data in Ireland to contextualize why this study is timely.

The statement “When families view chronic illness as ‘our problem’ rather than ‘your problem’” (p.3) is compelling but could be supported by adding cultural considerations about collectivist vs. individualist orientations.

The introduction notes, “Much of the research has focused on couples, particularly those managing diabetes” (p.6). Here, the research gap should be more explicitly linked to why studying Irish families specifically fills an important void.

The authors write, “crying together became a form of release” (p.11). More direct participant quotes could be integrated here to show variation in emotional solidarity across different family roles.

The authors note, “the reliance on self-reported narratives may introduce recall bias” (p.18). It would strengthen the limitations section to also acknowledge the potential influence of interviewing multiple members from the same family (if applicable), which may have shaped narratives.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

*1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The authors write, “Research on parental coping highlights the relational reorganization required when caring for a chronically ill child” (p.4). This section could be enhanced by contrasting findings in adult chronic illness versus child-focused contexts to justify the family-wide focus.

In discussing mechanisms, the authors mention “Positive emotionality, trust, and relational closeness emerge as mediators” (p.5). Consider citing empirical studies beyond Helgeson et al. to diversify references and strengthen this claim.

The discussion begins, “The findings of this study identified four interrelated themes...” (p.15). This section would benefit from a stronger integration of how these findings extend or challenge existing communal coping theory.

The statement, “Future interventions should therefore acknowledge both the strengths and potential pitfalls of communal coping” (p.17), is important. Consider suggesting practical examples of how interventions might balance shared versus individual coping.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

**2. Revised**

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.