Author's response to reviews

Title: The BpTRU automatic blood pressure monitor compared to 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in the assessment of blood pressure in patients with hypertension.

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Author's response to reviews:

We want to thank Dr. Pickering for taking the time to review this paper and we apologize for not being clear about the point in question. The paragraph relating to the three BP recording now reads as follows:

"Subjects were recruited from 51 family practices in eastern Ontario. All patients with a diagnosis of hypertension who were being treated with antihypertensive medications were identified in each practice. Each patient's chart was reviewed to abstract the blood pressures recorded on the patient's chart at the last three office visits where blood pressure was measured. Only one recording was used from any single office visit. If there was more than one recording at a given visit, the last measurement recorded for that visit was used. These visits ranged from several weeks to several months apart, depending on the practice of the physician regarding follow-up of hypertensive patients. If the mean of these three readings, taken at different visits, was >140/90, the patient was labeled as 'uncontrolled' by office measurement, meaning that the patient had not achieved the treatment target (>130/80 was used for diabetics). The research nurse then contacted these uncontrolled patients and invited them to participate in the study."

I think this is now much clearer.

We have also gone through the formatting checklist and believe the manuscript meets the BMC requirements.

Thank You

M Godwin and L Beckett