Author's response to reviews

Title: Identifying strategies to maximise recruitment and retention of practices and patients in a multicentre randomised controlled trial of an intervention to optimise secondary prevention for coronary heart disease in primary care.

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Author's response to reviews:

We have read the reviewers' additional comments, and were pleased to read both.

We see that Reviewer 2 is now content that we have addressed all his issues completely.

We note also Reviewer 1's final comment that "this paper can now be published". We have reviewed his comments, and our revised paper, and really feel that it may not be appropriate to make further changes – but would appreciate the editor's further consideration of this.

In relation to this, Reviewer 1 wondered whether or not our findings had particular relevance to settings in which practices were largely unused to taking part in research. (He notes that notes that "this is not a huge point"). We feel that it is inappropriate to make assumptions about the extent of previous research experience of practices which were involved with our study. In our discussion we have considered the application of our findings to a variety of settings.

Reviewer 1’s second comment related to his concern that he was unsure how we could present information about the cost of our approach to recruitment. We can reassure him here - this information will be included in a later paper which will report the economic analysis of all aspects of the trial. We feel that it will be more appropriate to set the relative costs of recruitment in relation to the overall cost of the study.

Many thanks.