Author's response to reviews

Title: Deploying a clinical innovation in the context of actor-patient consultations in general practice: A prelude to a formal clinical trial.

Authors:

- Moyez Jiwa (m.jiwa@curtin.edu.au)
- Robert K McKinley (r.k.mckinley@hfac.keele.ac.uk)
- Hayley Arnet (h.arnet@curtin.edu.au)
- Katrina Spilsbury (Katrina.Spilsbury@curtin.edu.au)
- Marthe Smith (expatriate@bigpond.com)

Version: 3 Date: 5 June 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
5th June 2009

Dear Editor,

We would like to respond to Prof. Harris:

The authors have responded carefully to each of the points in my previous review and incorporated, where appropriate, into the revised manuscript. My only remaining comment, which I will leave to the discretion of the author is that performance of the GP (as recalled) and the flow of the consultation are not two separate things and that some comment on the flow would be worth making in the discussion especially as two paragraphs in the introduction are devoted to the issue of switching between multiple tasks during the consultation.

We have included a sentence in the discussion as follows:

The data from this study also suggest that there was no significant harm in relation to the consultation competencies in the second phase of the study. In particular, we had hypothesized that this intervention could have disrupted the flow the consultations – the ‘switch costs’ of the intervention. [4, 5] We had not direct measure of this although if this has been a problem we would have expected it to have been reflected in the LAP scores which were allocated.

With that we have now concluded the response to the reviewers.

Best wishes,

Jiwa et al.