Dear editor,

Please find attached the manuscript ‘How do people respond to self-test results? A cross-sectional survey’. We previously submitted this article for publication in BMC Medicine. On advice of the editor of BMC Medicine, who suggested our article would be suited to the scope and readership of BMC Family Practice, we would now like to submit this original research manuscript for consideration for publication in BMC Family Practice.

Self-tests are currently available to the general public and can be used to diagnose a wide range of conditions. Earlier Dutch research showed that these tests are used by 1 in 7 adult internet users. Self-tests are in line with the current view of patient autonomy and self-management, but many have expressed their concerns about the safety of self-testing. It is unclear whether consumers can correctly perform a self-test and what conclusions they draw from self-test results.

To our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate consumers’ actions following the performance of a self-test on a broad range of tests. This study shows consumers’ confidence in self-test results, and that consumers seem to base their follow-up behaviour on the test result. It appears that those consumers who tested negative in a self-test may be too easily reassured and feel no need to consult a physician despite a possible medical indication. The findings show the need for objective consumer information on the use of self-tests and the possible pitfalls in interpretation of self-test results. We think that professionals should realize that patients engage in self-testing, and that those same consumers will sometimes make medical decisions based on their self-test results.

The authors declare that they have no competing interests and all authors contributed substantially to the realisation of this manuscript and have read and approved the final manuscript. Neither the work, nor any part of its essential content, has been published elsewhere.
substance, tables or figures have been published or submitted to another scientific journal, nor is it being considered for publication elsewhere.

We do hope you will consider our paper for publication in BMC Family Practice.

On behalf of all authors,

Kind regards,

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