Author's response to reviews

Title: Audit-based education to improve the management of people with a family history of breast cancer in primary care

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please will you consider the accompanying paper: “Audit-based education to improve the management of people with a family history of breast cancer in primary care”, for publication as an original article in your journal?

This study has two components:

1. **A literature review** to define the lifestyle factors that may reduce the risk of breast cancer. The literature review identified an evidence base for the following reversible risk factors for breast cancer: weight control, diet, physical activity and alcohol intake.

2. **Audit-based education (ABE)** as a quality improvement process. The audit based education (ABE) provided: an insight into the baseline levels of data recording and any improvement in the recording of risk factors, staff felt this had most impact on the assessment of new patients.

This study, reports there is scope for further quality improvement in assessing breast cancer risk in women with a family history of breast cancer. The audit demonstrates, an improvement in breast cancer risk assessments using ABE; though we are cautious not to over claim the results from a before and after audit process.

The paper is the first stage in a wider Macmillan Cancer Support sponsored audit. We will be going on to produce a self-audit tool kit for practices or localities can use. These self-audit tools will be similar to those we had developed to identify errors in the coding of diabetes (http://www.clininf.eu/diabetes.html),\(^1\) and child maltreatment (http://www.clininf.eu/childmaltreatment-codes.html).\(^2\)

We have placed some additional supporting material online. This includes an exemplar ABE workshop presentation, (http://www.clininf.eu/fhbc). Additionally, once the paper is accepted for publication we planned to make a full copy of the full literature review available. Though we would be happy for these to be held as further supplementary files if preferred.

This manuscript has not previously been published and is not under consideration in any other peer reviewed media.

All authors listed have contributed to the project to be included as authors. To the best of our knowledge, no conflict of interest exists. We have included acknowledgments, conflict of interest, and funding sources after the discussion.

Yours faithfully,

Prof Simon de Lusignan, on behalf of the authors

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