Author's response to reviews

Title: GP perspectives of Irritable Bowel Syndrome - an accepted illness, but management deviates from guidelines: a qualitative study

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We thank the editor for their comments – we have changed the section on sampling (as below) to make it clearer how GPs were recruited to the study and hope that you will now be able to publish the paper.

Purposive sampling was used to maximise the variation of the sample of GPs. GPs who were invited to participate in the main study were also invited to participate in this nested qualitative study and two GPs agreed. The remaining 17 GPs were recruited from the 58 practices who had agreed to recruit patients for the main study. We sampled practices according to location, and asked if one of the GPs would participate in the interview study. As recruitment continued, we tried to ensure a spread of participants across gender, ethnicities, age ranges and years of experience in practice. Recruitment was then continued until theme saturation was achieved.