Many thanks for your e-mail dated 13th May 2003. Please find enclosed a copy of the revised manuscript.

The manuscript has been revised in accordance with your reviewers' wishes. Specifically:

1. A table has been added to the introduction to describe the results of previous observational studies.
2. The aim has been changed to demonstrate that patients participating in the study are on long term oral anticoagulation therapy.
3. A figure of the study design has been included.
4. A sentence has been added to clarify the uncertainty principle.
5. A sentence has been added to clarify the inclusion, exclusion criteria.
6. The endpoints in terms of haemorrhagic and thrombotic complications have been defined.
7. A sentence has been added to describe how minor adverse event data were collected.
8. The paragraphs describing patient information sessions and patient training have been reduced.
9. A sentence and references have been added to describe the standardised assessment tools being used to inform on quality of life.
10. A flow diagram has been included to present details of patient recruitment and drop out during the study period.
11. Details have been added regarding the specifics of the cost effectiveness analysis.
12. The revisions made to the inclusion, exclusion criteria and uncertainty principle should overcome concerns regarding the characteristics of subjects recruited. The inclusion of the consort diagram
demonstrates subject recruitment in terms of numbers of patients recruited.

13. The hypothesis to being tested has been included.

14. A definition of near patient testing has been included in the text.

15. Standard care has been described including expected frequency if testing within standard care.

16. A description of how percentage time will be estimated has been added.

17. The power calculations do not address the potential for non-independence among patients being cared for within the same clinic.

18. The statistical analysis has been described.

19. The standardised assessment tools used in the study have been referenced.

I hope you feel able to publish the revised manuscript.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely

Deborah McCahon
Research Associate