Author's response to reviews

Title: Implementing referral guidelines: Lessons from a negative outcome cluster randomised factorial trial in general practice ISRCTN10184669

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Dear Editor,

In response to reviewer 1 - David Cade. We have added the following phrase in the manuscript:

"In addition applying this innovation to other professional groups, for example practice nurses or involving the patient directly in documenting the clinical details may have yielded different results. We believe the software did identify the patients who met the referral criteria for urgent referral insofar as the software was programmed with the relevant algorithms. However this presupposes that the clinician systematically elicited the relevant clinical features for all symptomatic patients referred or otherwise."