Author's response to reviews

Title: Self reported health status, and health service contact, of illicit drug users aged 50 and over: a qualitative interview study in the United Kingdom

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Version: 5 Date: 21 September 2009

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Please find details of our revisions:

Page 8, reference for “However, deep vein thrombosis….”
A reference has been added.

Page 11, reference for “and because drug users tend to associated exclusively with other drug users”
We have amended the text slightly to refer to older drug users; this is supported by the interviews and a reference is given for other work which reports this finding.

“One comparatively erudite man”.
This has been changed to “one particularly erudite man”.

Page 12 – the first two paragraphs could be substantially shortened.
The first two paragraphs on page 12 are three lines each and are quotations. We feel it is important to leave these quotations as they are.

Page 14 – stigma and discrimination should be mentioned here.
We discuss stigma and discrimination in relation to the interviewees experience in hospital (page 13). We have also added this to page 14 in relation to palliative care.

References – in some cases, government health department reports have been cited where primary sources could be cited, e.g. #15 and #25.
We feel these reports are more important because they synthesise the evidence from a number of primary sources and so we have let these references as they are.