Author's response to reviews

Title: Diagnostic aid to rule out pneumonia in adults with cough and feeling of fever. A validation study in the primary care setting

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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<th>Reviewer: Tom Fahey</th>
<th>Revision</th>
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<td>I do think that only including low risk individuals makes the probability of pneumonia low, so do wonder what the clinical utility of a further “rule out” CPR might be.</td>
<td>We agree with the argument of the reviewer that probability of pneumonia is low in the patients included in this validation study. However, from the results of the derivation study we calculated that the prescription rate of antibiotics could be reduced by almost ten percent. We added in the discussion section (page 10, third paragraph, second sentence) a comment and the sentence reads now. “In our previous derivation study [7], we demonstrated that use of the simple diagnostic aid would have led to a decrease in antibiotic prescriptions of approximately ten percent even in a population of patients with a low risk of pneumonia.” We also added this note in the conclusion part in the penultimate sentence and it reads now. “The application of this rapid and low-cost instrument may support a change in physician behavior, reducing the rate of unnecessary chest x-rays and antibiotic prescriptions in patients with low risk of pneumonia.”</td>
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