Author’s response to reviews

Title: Hospital admissions in older people with visual impairment in Britain

Authors:

Jennifer R Evans (jennifer.evans@lshtm.ac.uk)
Liam Smeeth (liam.smeeth@lshtm.ac.uk)
Astrid E Fletcher (astrid.fletcher@lshtm.ac.uk)

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Response to reviewers
Reviewer #1

Discretionary revisions
1. Repeating the analyses excluding ophthalmology admissions did not appreciably change the results. Text has been added to the results section top of page 7.
2. Discussion and conclusions expanded as suggested with brief discussion of results of MRC trial in the last paragraph of Discussion.

Reviewer #2

1. Information on the use of services, such as hospital services, by visually impaired people is interesting and important. In order to estimate the cost-benefit of interventions for visual impairment in this age-group, for example, we need to have estimates of the use of services by visually impaired people compared to people with normal vision.
2. We decided that people with severe cognitive impairment would be unlikely to be able to complete our vision test which was conducted by nurses in general practice although we agree that there might be other ways of assessing visual acuity in this group.
3. We have replaced means with medians and revised the regression analyses using a log transformed score.