Author's response to reviews

Title: Variation in Hepatitis C services may lead to inequity of health-care provision: a survey of the organisation and delivery of services in the United Kingdom.

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Dear Editor

Please find our responses to the two points made by Reviewer D Goldberg.

1. We acknowledge that there may have been some ambiguity in the phrasing of question 14 with regards to "under your care". We have accordingly added the sentence on page 6.

There may be some uncertainty in who is included in these figures, as the questionnaire asked for patient numbers "currently under your care" which may include those defaulting and not yet discharged back to Primary Care

However we feel that with increasing demands on out-patients resources it is likely that physicians when asked who is currently under their care would not include defaulters who after several failures to attend appointments are discharged back to their GP with an invitation to be re-referred as required.

2. Reference to the practice of other European countries with regard to management of patients with Hepatitis C are included on page and in the reference list.

The UK vs Europe: Losing the fight against hepatitis C', authored by the Hepatitis C Trust and the University of Southampton Report 2005