Author's response to reviews

Title: A Theoretical Model for the Development of a Diagnosis-Based Clinical Decision Rule for the Management of Patients with Spinal Pain

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Author's response to reviews:

We have made the final changes requested by reviewer Childs. Specifically, we changed the title to "A Theoretical Model for the Development of a Diagnosis-Based Clinical Decision Rule for the Management of Patients with Spinal Pain" and have made changes in the text to reflect the theoretical nature of this rule and the need for further research to determine whether this is a true "decision rule" in the sense indicated by reviewer Childs.

In changing the title we elected, in addition to inserting the "Theoretical Model..." wording, to take out the "Non-Surgical Management..." wording which was present in the previous version. We felt that retaining this wording made the title too long and cumbersome, and as it is emphasized repeatedly in the text that this model pertains to patients with non-surgical spine problems, we did not feel it was necessary to state this in the title.

We also have gone through the manuscript checklist to be sure that the format is consistent with the requirements of the journal.

The manuscript is now ready for publication.