Author's response to reviews

Title: General Practitioners' use and experiences of palliative care services: a survey in South East England.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

Please accept the attached paper for resubmission.

In answer to the recommendations of the reviewers, the changes I have made include:

1. details and statistical review of number of patients cared for removed (suggested by one reviewer that these are notoriously unreliable and should be removed)
2. description of the two hospices included
3. As noted by both reviewers, the point of the survey isn’t to compare the two services but to look at GP/specialist relationships. However, in places there are significant differences between views and experiences of the users of the two services which when looked at together may provide an overall skewed view. Where this is not the case, data from the two hospices has been combined.
4. Point added into discussion that a number of non-cancer deaths may be occurring where GPs do not recognise the palliative needs of these patients.
5. Haines paper has now been referenced and a further literature search has yielded a more recent relevant reference
6. Speculative content of the discussion has been reduced (as suggested by one reviewer).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if required.

Yours sincerely,

Sabrina Bajwah