Author's response to reviews

Title: Smoking and use of primary care services: findings from a population-based cohort study linked with administrative claims data

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Author's response to reviews: see over
8 August 2012

Dear Editor,

Re: MS: 1041227031710245
Smoking and use of primary care services: findings from a population-based cohort study linked with administrative claims data

Louisa R Jorm, Leah C Shepherd, Kris D Rogers and Fiona M Blyth

Thank you for accepting our article for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

We have made the following revisions to the manuscript in response to the comments made by the reviewers and editor:

Reviewer Allen Cheadle

Comment: Discretionary Revisions
Remove the N’s from Table 2 and just have the percentages (with overall N’s). As it is, it’s hard to make comparisons across categories.

Revision: This has been done.

Editor

Comment: I also recommend that you revise the following sentence and provide a citation or citations to reflect the increasing consensus on the negligible value of the PSA test. "Although the benefits of PSA tests and of health checks provided through Medicare are less certain, lower use of both of these services by male smokers again points to lower levels of health seeking behaviours." See conclusion of the US Preventive Services Task force: "Prostate-specific antigen-based screening results in small or no reduction in

**Revision:** The sentence in question has been revised and now reads:

“Although the risks of PSA testing in healthy men may outweigh its benefits,[21] and the cost-effectiveness of health checks provided through Medicare is unknown, lower use of both of these services by male smokers again points to lower levels of health seeking behaviours.”

A citation has been added as requested.

**Comment:** Please format your abstract according to the guidelines for authors [http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/abstracts].

**Revision:** This has been done.

I look forward to the publication of our article.

Yours sincerely

Louisa R Jorm
Corresponding author, on behalf of all authors