Author's response to reviews

Title: Targeted individual exercise programmes for older medical patients are feasible, and changes hospital and patient outcomes: a service improvement project

Authors:

Jo S Nolan (jo.nolan@fmc.sa.gov.au)
Susie K Thomas (thom0767@flinders.edu.au)

Version: 5 Date: 3 November 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
29th October 2008

Dear Dr Alexandersson,

We would again like to thank you for your time and comments regarding the manuscript we have submitted to BMC Health Services Research. We appreciate the further review of the manuscript and have addressed each of the issues raised as outlined below.

Point-by-point response to Nicholas F Taylor Reviewers report

Minor essential changes

1. The title has been modified to include the suggested word addition (page 1, line 2).

2. The abstract has been reworded to more accurately report on the trend rather than implying that the LOS reduction was statistically significant (page 3, paragraph 1, line 8).

3. The methods section has been reworded to clarify the issues raised by the reviewer around the readers ability to accurately replicate the Functional Maintenance Programme (page 9, paragraph 1, line 7).

4. We have included a new table (table 2) to report on age, gender, PCCL and EMS scores for the two groups as suggested by the reviewer.

Point-by-point response to C S Landefeld Reviewers report

Minor compulsory revision

1. The methods has been altered to include a description of HARP scoring so that the reader can identify who was excluded (the low risk people) and who was included (the middle and high risk people) as suggested by the reviewer (last line page 6, first lines page 7).

Kind Regards,

Susie Thomas