Author's response to reviews

Title: The Primary Care Amplification Model: an antipodean alternative to UK Polyclinics?

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript ‘The Primary Care Amplification Model: an antipodean alternative to UK Polyclinics’ for publication in the BMC Health Services Research journal as a ‘Correspondence Type 3’ article.

We are happy to accept this invitation, and have amended the manuscript accordingly. Specifically, we have made the following changes:

1. The heading “summary” has been changed to “conclusion” in the abstract and in the main body of the manuscript.

2. In the 1st paragraph of the background, a formatting problem was corrected with the addition of an additional dot point.

3. The initial data has been removed from the revised manuscript. Specifically, the following text has been removed:
   • "Since its commencement in September 2007, over 170 patients have been seen. Preliminary analysis of the first 64 patients completing six month follow-up shows a reduction in mean HbA1c of 0.64% (p = 0.01) with 25% (16/64) patients achieving improvements in glycaemic control of 1.5% or more. A comprehensive evaluation of this service is underway and will be reported in 2009."
   • Preliminary results from 136 eyes demonstrate an 86% concordance between GPs and ophthalmologists in diagnosing DR, well within screening guidelines.(16) There was an absence of DR in 70% of eyes, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of DR screening in primary care. Additionally, GPs report great benefit in using the images in patient counselling regarding glucose, lipid and blood pressure control. Evaluation is ongoing, and IPC plans to expand the service to local general practices from 2009.

With best wishes
Prof Claire Jackson