Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Screening and brief interventions for hazardous alcohol use in accident and emergency departments: a randomised controlled trial protocol.

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Dear Sir/Madam

This manuscript is being submitted to BMC Health Services Research as it is a large multi centre clinical trial in a hospital setting which will inform academics, clinicians and policy makers of the most efficacious and cost effective screening test and brief intervention approach for alcohol use disorders in Accident and Emergency Departments. Alcohol related attendances at accident and emergency departments are currently estimated to make up to 70% of all admissions at peak times, this trial will aim to provide valuable information that will be useful in tackling this widespread problem.

This large clinical trial is funded by the UK Department of Health and is part of the largest programme of alcohol research in the UK. The trial is of wide interest to AED clinicians, primary care trusts and national stakeholders. The study has been granted ethical approval by a multi-centre research ethics committee and by the local research ethics committee for the localities where the research will take place. Therefore in line with the editorial policy should be exempt from peer review. Finally, King's College London is a Biomed Central Member.
Look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely

Katherine Perryman and Simon Coulton, on behalf of the SIPS research programme group