Author’s response to reviews

Title: Registration of non-commercial randomised clinical trials: the feasibility of using registration data to monitor trends in the number of trials

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Trials

We have pleasure in submitting this research article on the number of non-commercial trials starting each year in the UK. This article is appropriate for Trials as it deals with the key issue of the volume of randomised clinical trials, linked to the registration of trials. A major concern of the Coalition Government has to do with the number of trials being carried out in the UK. Similarly, the requirement to register trials has provided data which have been little analysed. Besides the Chalmers et al article against which we compare our results, we know of no other similar attempt to answer the question of whether the number of non-commercial trials is falling or rising. By contrast with the media reports on the falling number of commercial trials, we find a modest upward trend in the number of non-commercial trials. We are keen to put the findings and recommendations of this article into the public domain both to spark debate and to encourage further work.

Best wishes

James Raftery