Author’s response to reviews

Title: A self-management program for employees with complaints of the arm, neck or shoulder (CANS): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

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Version: 4 Date: 26 June 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear sirs,

We would like to thank the reviewer for all the constructive comments to improve our manuscript.

The manuscript has been revised according to the reviewers’ comments. We took over all the suggestions made by the reviewer. We have added new version of our revised manuscript that includes all the amendments highlighted in yellow.

We made some modifications (as ask by the reviewer) in the reference list. The amendments in the reference list are not highlighted in yellow.

We have one remark on point 28:

“P 26. Suggest including the CONSORT R as part of how this should be reported”.
We did not report according to the CONSORT Statement because we wanted to point out the design of the trial with the several follow-up questionnaires rather than to describe the passage of participants through the trial (because most of it is not known yet). We thinks this overview gives a good idea of the design of the trial. If the reviewer thinks that reporting according to the CONSORT Statement is of surplus value we are prepared to adapt this flowchart.