Author's response to reviews

Title: Nicotine patch preloading for smoking cessation (the preloading trial): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

Authors:

   Nicola Lindson-Hawley Dr (nicola.lindson-hawley@phc.ox.ac.uk)
   Tim Coleman Prof (tim.coleman@nottingham.ac.uk)
   Graeme Docherty Mr (Graeme.docherty@nottingham.ac.uk)
   Peter Hajek Prof (p.hajek@qmul.ac.uk)
   Sarah Lewis Prof (sarah.lewis@nottingham.ac.uk)
   Deborah Lycett Dr (deborah.lycett@coventry.ac.uk)
   Andy McEwen Dr (andy.mcewen@ucl.ac.uk)
   Hayden McRobbie Dr (h.j.mcrobbe@qmul.ac.uk)
   Marcus Munafo Prof (marcus.munafo@bristol.ac.uk)
   Steve Parrott Mr (steve.parrott@york.ac.uk)
   Paul Aveyard Prof (paul.aveyard@phc.ox.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
12\textsuperscript{th} June 2014

Dear Sir

\textbf{Re: MS: 8989030571127274}

\textbf{The preloading trial: study protocol for an open label pragmatic randomised controlled trial of nicotine preloading for smoking cessation}

I am writing to you following your email of the 16\textsuperscript{th} May 2014, which included instructions on how to revise our manuscript (detailed above), for publication in your journal.

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript with track changes and a response to your comments below. Only the main manuscript includes revision, as requested. I hope this is all to your satisfaction; however if there are any problems then please let me know.

Yours Faithfully

\begin{flushright}
Nicola Lindson-Hawley  
(Trial Manager)
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Response to Editor and Reviewer comments

Comments of handling editor
In line with my initial comment, the authors have now deleted all descriptions of the study where 'efficacy' is mentioned. However, they have kept the term efficacy in the Abstract, which I think might be misleading as to the nature of the actual trial, which is now labelled as determining effectiveness (which I think is appropriate).
Efficacy changes to effectiveness in abstract

Editorial requests
1. Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol articles. The title should follow the format ?___________: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.?

   Title changed to: Nicotine patch preloading for smoking cessation (the preloading trial): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

2. Please include the date your study was registered with your trial registration number at the end of your Abstract.
   Actioned

3. Please include a list of abbreviations and their meanings, after the Trial Status.
   Actioned

In addition I have also updated the number of participants recruited in the ‘Trial Status’ section and added the HTA disclaimer to the acknowledgments section as requested by the funder.