Author's response to reviews

Title: Recruitment of young women to a trial of chlamydia screening - as easy as it sounds?

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MS:  1347106327144745- Recruitment of young women to a trial of chlamydia screening - as easy as it sounds?

Thank you very much for your email and the referees’ reports.

Response to editor’s email:

Protocol
Please now find a copy of the protocol uploaded with the manuscript.

Ethical Approval
Ethical approval for the trial was granted by Wandsworth Research Ethics Committee (Ref 03.0054). We ensured that all participants were explicitly aware that their sample might fall into the control group and not be tested for 12 months. We recommended that if they had been at risk of sexually transmitted infection they should seek testing at a health care facility. This information was in both the patient information sheet and consent form (please see end of protocol). It also was reiterated at the point of recruitment. After recruitment a copy of the patient information sheet was also posted to participants’ home. An extra paragraph on ethical issues has been added to the methods.

Response to reviewer 1 Jan Hendrik Richardus: Characteristics of women not recruited.
We agree that we were unable to describe the characteristics of all females not recruited, only of a small sample who may not be representative. We therefore cannot be sure that non-responders were more likely to be from ethnic minorities. These limitations have been added to the discussion.

Response to reviewer 2 Dirk Avonts: Ethical Issues.
Please see above.
We very much hope these modifications are acceptable.

Yours sincerely

Helen Atherton