Author's response to reviews

Title: A quasi-experimental test of an intervention to increase the use of thiazide-based treatment regimens for people with hypertension

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We have made the following changes in response to the reviewers' latest comments.

Reviewer Wessel
1. PrimeCare comparison group not a true placebo group
We certainly agree with this and in fact have never used the word (or thought) placebo to describe that group. To make sure the reader does not mistake the nature of this group, we have added a sentence in the Methods (pg 11): "Thus the PrimeCare comparison group cannot be considered as a no-treatment control group." In the Discussion where we describe the implications the use of this comparison group had on the findings (6th para, pg 18), we now say "This points out the importance of not assuming that practice patterns in a real-world usual care comparison group will be in a steady state..."

2. Sentence apparently contradicting conclusions of ALLHAT and impetus for this study
We have revised the sentence (first sentence of para 3 of Discussion) and removed the statement in question.

Reviewer van der Weijden
1. Make sure the take home message is clear in the Discussion.
We have revised the first paragraph of the Discussion so that the take home message is now in the first sentence: "Though the effects of the intervention were small, we conclude that our multifaceted intervention did increase thiazide prescribing and BP control rates in GMS."

We have also revised the formatting etc. in accordance with the materials sent by Jenny Girard.

Thank you for the good news in the last email.