Author's response to reviews

Title: Evidence-based care of older people with suspected cognitive impairment in general practice: protocol for the IRIS cluster randomised trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
15th July 2013
Copy editor
Implementation Science
BioMed Central
Dear Copy editor
Thank you for copy editing our manuscript. We have accepted most of the suggested changes. Please find in the following list answers to your questions and rejected changes (with our rationale).

1) The corresponding author has been identified.
2) Affiliations have had street addresses added.
3) Abstract aims: We have not accepted the deletion of the roman numerals in the aim since without the numbers it is not clear that a formal cognitive assessment and depression assessment using a validated scale are two separate outcomes.
4) Page 4: We have spelt out the acronym for IRIS (where it is first mentioned).
5) We have not accepted the insertion of the bolded comma in the sentence
“...extracted free text and dates related to cognitive and depression assessment, and referral for CT scan and specialist services.” (pg 8-9). This is because, the extracted free text and dates relate to both cognitive and depression assessment and referral for CT scan and specialist services.

6) We have not accepted the deletion of the roman numerals in the sentence
“We have included proxy measures for the two management behaviours, disclosure of diagnosis of dementia to (i) patients and (ii) carers.” (pg 15). Inclusion of the numbers makes it clear that there are separate measures of disclosure of diagnosis for patients and carers.

7) We have not accepted the deletion of the roman numerals in the sentence
“We have included measures of intention for the two management behaviours, disclosure of diagnosis of dementia to (i) patients and (ii) carers.” (pg 16) for the reason provided above.

8) Pg 17: Query regarding the clarity of reference to a sample size formula in Eldridge. The Eldridge paper includes four formulas, with each formula denoted by a number. In our manuscript, we wish to be specific about the formula that we used to calculate sample size, so have specifically noted the formula number. We have made no changes in response this query.

9) Table 6: We have not accepted the suggested changes in the column titles of ‘behaviour’ to ‘behavior’. Behaviour has not been spelt ‘behavior’ elsewhere in the manuscript.

10) Headings: The following headings have been changed to reflect the intended structure of the paper:

a. Recruitment of general practices: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
b. Identification of patients: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3. Address: Level 6, The Alfred Centre, 99 Commercial Road Melbourne VIC 3004 AUSTRALIA
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c. Inclusion criteria: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
d. Exclusion criteria: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
e. Control group: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
f. Intervention group: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
g. Intervention fidelity: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
h. Timing of recruitment, intervention delivery, and follow-up: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
i. Primary outcomes: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
j. Secondary outcome: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
k. GP behaviour: Was heading 2, changed to heading 4.
l. Proxy measures of GP behaviour: Was heading 2, changed to heading 4.
m. Mediators of GP behaviour: Was heading 2, changed to heading 4.
n. Analysis subsets: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
o. Descriptive analyses at baseline: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
p. Primary analyses: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.
q. Secondary analyses: Was heading 2, changed to heading 3.

Yours sincerely,
Joanne McKenzie. Address: Level