Author's response to reviews

Title: Point of care testing for urinary tract infection in primary care (POETIC): Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of the clinical and cost effectiveness of FLEXICULT™ informed management of uncomplicated UTI in primary care

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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3rd November 2014,

Dear Editorial Team,

RE: Point of care testing for urinary tract Infection in primary care (POETIC): Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of the clinical and cost effectiveness of FLEXICULT™ informed management of uncomplicated UTI in primary care

Please find attached protocol paper to be considered for submission in BMC Family Practice for the POETIC Trial.

POETIC is a randomised controlled trial of a Point Of Care Test (POCT) (Flexicult™) guided urinary tract infection (UTI) management strategy for use with women presenting with suspected uncomplicated UTI which may help General Practitioners more effectively decide both whether or not to prescribe antibiotics, and if so, to select the most appropriate antibiotic. The trial aims to recruit 614 adult women across four primary care research networks (Wales, England, Spain and the Netherlands).

The POETIC trial is ongoing as we are still collecting data from participants.

If shown to be cost effective, the use of this POCT could benefit individual sufferers and provide evidence for health care authorities to develop evidence based policies to combat the spread and impact of the unprecedented rise of infections caused by MDR-GNB in Europe.

This study is funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme, add forms one work package of the R-GNOSIS consortium. As part of the commissioning process, the proposal was subject to external peer-review, therefore additional external peer-review for this manuscript will not be needed. In the UK Ethical approval was granted by the Research Ethics Committee for Wales and appropriate Research and Development approval has also been granted for all sites taking part in the study (including those in Spain and the Netherlands). Documents to support this have been sent to BMCseriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

No publications containing any of the results have been published yet.

I look forward to your response.
Best wishes,

Dr Emma Thomas-Jones

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