Author’s response to reviews

Title: Is problem alcohol use being detected and treated in Irish general practice?

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Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your correspondence which we have read carefully. We have responded to each of the four comments below and have included the changes in the text where appropriate. We believe that the suggestions have strengthened the paper and we are very happy to be publishing with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew O’Regan
Senior Lecturer in General Practice
University of Limerick Graduate Entry Medical School
1. Reviewer: Please note the Ethics section heading should be rephrased as "Ethics approval and consent to participate." In this section, please include a statement indicating whether permission was obtained to access the medical records studied along with the entity that approved this and if this was approved by the ethics committee.

   a. Author: On line 353, the ethics section has been rephrased to read “Ethics approval and consent to participate”. Lines 354-356 now read “Ethical approval was granted from the Irish College of General Practitioners Research Ethics Committee. Permission was obtained to access the medical records as part of this study and this was approved by the ethics committee”.

2. Reviewer: Please rephrase the heading "Consent" to "Consent for publication."

   a. Author: On line 357, the heading “consent” has been rephrased to read “Consent for publication”.

3. Reviewer: Please change the heading "Datasets" to "Availability of data and materials."

   a. On line 359, the heading “datasets” has been edited to read “Availability of data and materials”.

4. Reviewer: Upon uploading your revisions, please remove any tracked changes or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript.

   a. All tracked changes and highlighted sections have been removed from the manuscript.