Author's response to reviews

Title: Matching participants in a systematic chlamydia screening programme with patients seen by a sexually transmitted infections clinic, general practitioners, or medical specialists: an observational study of the added value of systematic chlamydia screening programme in reaching young people.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Infectious Diseases editor,

Please find enclosed our original research article entitled ‘Matching participants in a systematic chlamydia screening programme with patients seen by a sexually transmitted infections clinic, general practitioners, or medical specialists: an observational study of the added value of systematic chlamydia screening programme in reaching young people’.

Our study is the first to use data from three regular care providers (i.e. a sexually transmitted infections clinic, general practitioners, and medical specialists) to assess whether chlamydia screening adds to regular care. Our data was highly unique (>91%) and matched on a patient-date level to the municipal population register of over 41,000 subjects. The effectiveness of population-based screening could be negatively affected by reaching persons already served by regular care. Yet, our study shows that 81% of young people (aged 16-29 years) reached by chlamydia screening were new patients who had so far been hidden to care. These new patients had a similar prevalence of urogenital chlamydia as participants previously tested by regular care providers. Therefore, we can conclude that chlamydia screening adds to existing regular care by revealing a so-far hidden population.

We hope that you will consider our manuscript for publication. We are particularly interested in publishing our study in BMC Infectious Diseases, as we believe that our results are important for both the scientific public and the wider medical community. We hope that this article will contribute to the scientific debate regarding chlamydia screening.

All of the authors declare that they have no conflict of interest, that they have seen and approved the manuscript and that they have contributed significantly to the work. No individuals other than the authors listed have contributed significantly to the preparation of the manuscript. The contents of the manuscript are our original work, and they have not been
published in whole or in part, prior to or simultaneous with our submission of the manuscript to BMC Infectious Diseases.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely (also on behalf of the co-authors),

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