Author's response to reviews

Title: Retesting and repeat positivity following diagnosis of Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea in New Zealand: a retrospective cohort study

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INFD-D-17-00717R1

Retesting and repeat positivity following diagnosis of Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea in New Zealand: a retrospective cohort study Sally B Rose, PhD; Susan M Garrett, MPH; James Stanley, PhD; Susan RH Pullon, MPH, FRNZCGP (Dist), MBChB BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Dr Rose,

Your manuscript "Retesting and repeat positivity following diagnosis of Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoea in New Zealand: a retrospective cohort study" (INFD-D-17-00717R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases, once you have carried out some essential revisions:

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1. Please include a statement on consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

If consent was not required, please provide details of why this was waived and the institution/committee that approved the waiver (if applicable) OR state any national guidelines which waiver the need for consent.

Author reply: We have added the following statement to this section (Page 15, Lines 348-51) “Consent was not sought for participation due to the anonymised nature, quantity and age of the
records retrospectively analysed in this study. Collection of health information without consent was permitted under section 6.43 of the New Zealand Ethical Guidelines for Observational Studies.”

2. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

Author reply: A conclusions section has now been added at the end of the discussion (Page 14, 337-45).

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Author reply: Clean manuscript file uploaded as advised.