Author’s response to reviews

Title: 'HepCheck Dublin': An Intensified Hepatitis C Screening Programme in a Homeless Population Demonstrates the Need for Alternative Models of Care

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Behzad Hajarizedeh,

Please find below a summary of revisions made to the manuscript as of 13/06/18.

Kind regards,

Dr John S. Lambert.

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Comment 1 - Please use consistent format for reporting decimal places. Both in the abstract and in the Results section of the manuscript, some numbers were reported to 2 decimal places, while some with one and some with none.

Response 1 - Amended in text.

Comment 2 - Methods: “… a standardised, non-probability sampling framework was used in to identify subjects patients on whom data was collected”. As requested by one of the reviewers, more explanation is required to clarify what “a standardised, non-probability sampling framework” is.

Response 2 - Clarified as ‘targeted sampling’ and included reference to Watters and Biernacki’s 1989 paper ‘Targeted Sampling: Options for the Study of Hidden Populations’

Updated text: ‘As conventional probability methods, such as simple or stratified random sampling, are often not appropriate for populations of injecting drug users (26), targeted sampling, a non-probability sampling framework, was used to identify subjects on whom data was collected (27).’