Author’s response to reviews

Title: The value of maintaining normokalaemia and enabling RAASi therapy in chronic kidney disease

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Dear Editors,

Thank you for considering our original research article for publication in BMC Nephrology.

Since our last submission we have addressed the minor revisions highlighted. Please accept our revised manuscript, with the revisions outlined in our responses to each comment, listed below.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further details regarding our revised submission. Once again, thank you very much for reconsidering our study for publication in BMC Nephrology.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor comments

1. Ethics approval and consent to participate Thank you for providing an ethics and consent to participate statement. However, please clearly state in this section if consent to participate was obtained from all of the participants and specify whether consent to participate was given verbally or in written format. If verbal consent was used please provide a reason why verbal consent to participate was used rather than written consent.

Author response:

Our manuscript does not report on or involve the use of any animal or human data or tissue and as such an ethics statement is not applicable. The original ethics statement included in the manuscript was entered in error and has now been replaced with ‘Not applicable’.
2. Textual overlap

We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


This overlap mainly exists in the
- Model application: line 152-165

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Author response:

We thank the editors for bringing the textual overlap to our attention. The model application section of the manuscript has now been edited to read:

The model was used to estimate the consequences of discontinuing RAASi therapy to maintain normal potassium levels in advanced CKD patients in terms of lifetime healthcare costs, life-expectancy and quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). Analysis was conducted for a cohort of CKD stage 3a patients (eGFR 52.5 mL/min/1.73m2), who were aged 60 years at baseline. Serum potassium was maintained at 4.5 mEq/L for all patients. Though the treatment arm represented a cohort of patients who received optimal serum potassium management to enable the continuation of RAASi therapy, the cost of such strategies (pharmacological and/or monitoring) was not included. All other costs and benefits were discounted at 3.5% per annum [59].

The health economic value of maintaining normokalaemia and optimising RAASi therapy was summarised in terms of incremental net monetary benefit (NMB) which was derived using willingness-to-pay (WTP) thresholds of £20,000–30,000 per QALY gained, in line with UK assessments of cost-effectiveness. In this analysis, incremental NMB represents the amount of money that could be spent on strategies to maintain normokalaemia that would be deemed good value for money.

3. Authors’ contributions
Please represent authors' names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Author response:
Full initials have now used instead of full names in the author contributions section.

4. Section headings
Please add a section heading ‘Declarations’ after the list of abbreviations. Please also rename the section heading ‘Introduction’ to ‘Background’ in the main text of this manuscript.

Author response:
The section heading ‘Declarations’ is already included (line 389).
The first section in the main text of the manuscript is already labelled as ‘Background’ (line 68).

4. Title page
Please include email addresses of all co-authors on the title page according to our editorial policy.

Author response:
Email addresses of all co-authors have been added to the title page.