Author’s response to reviews

Title: EQUIPTT: The Evaluation of the QUiPP app for Triage and Transfer Protocol for a cluster randomised trial to evaluate the impact of the QUiPP app on inappropriate management for threatened preterm labour

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Author’s response to reviews:

Many thanks for your comments. They are addressed below and in the manuscript.

Editor's comments:

1) Please indicate in the title that this is a study protocol. Done

2) Please remove the table from the abstract. Done

3) Please include the date of registration beside the trial registration number. Done
4) As your study is a cluster randomised control trial, could you please provide a power calculation for the number of centres. This is factored into power calculation which has been slightly amended to For inappropriate admission decisions, a total sample size of 580, approximately 50 recruits per site, was calculated. Data from our group’s ongoing prospective observational study into the ability of qfFN to predict preterm birth in symptomatic women (PETRA REC Ref. 14/LO/1988) has allowed us to estimate the likely treatment effect for the intervention reducing inappropriate admissions from 25% to 10% and intra-class correlation 0.030. Based on 13 clusters this treatment effect requires approximately 580 for 80% power. We are aware that a larger number of centres would also be preferable, but believe 13 is adequate and at the limit of what is currently feasible.

5) You report that King’s College London and Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust are co-sponsors of the study, can you confirm whether they have provided funding for this study. No funding as described in paragraph above but have amended funding section

6) Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles. None

7) Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body, and please specify which funding body peer-reviewed the study. Added to funding paragraph (Guy’s and St Thomas Charity)

8) Please remove the “Sponsors” subheading of the Declarations. This should be included under Funding, if relevant or Acknowledgements. Done

Kind regards

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