Author’s response to reviews

Title: Outcomes of Aortic Aneurysm Surgery in England: A nationwide cohort study using Hospital Admissions Data from 2002 to 2015

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Dear Mr. Deepanath & Shona Reeves,


I would be grateful if you can consider the above named manuscript for publication at the BMC Health Services Research. The comments of the reviewers have been considered carefully and where appropriate the text of the manuscript and tables were modified.

Further information on developing the case-mix group for patients with aortic aneurysm presentation is provided. The process included developing an algorithm based on the diagnosis and operation codes as well as discharge codes in the hospital episode statistics dataset. The process was iterative and at every stage samples of individual patient pathways were reviewed. This process of reviewing the data refined the algorithm and helped exclude the patients with AAA repair procedure in a prior admission. The consensus meant that all clinicians agreed on the definitions based on reviewing aggregate data and samples of patient pathway. A table is provided in which specific replies are provided to every comment, many of the suggestions by the reviewers were incorporated. Please see the table.
Thank-you for receiving the revised version of the manuscript and considering it, we appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Many Thanks.

Yours Sincerely

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