Author's response to reviews

Title: Anaemia and blood transfusion in African children presenting to hospital with severe febrile illness

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Claire

**Anaemia and blood transfusion in African children presenting to hospital with severe febrile illness**

We are attaching final versions of the manuscript, figures, and tables. Our responses to the various points raised in your letter are as follows:

**Comments by referee 2**
  a) Figure 1 now presents the probability of starting transfusion by haemoglobin level only. We have decided not to present the graphs by site, but have added this to the supplementary material.
  b) We have removed the redundant paragraph on haemoglobinuria from the Discussion section, as this will be covered in a future paper.

**Editorial revisions**
  1. Trial registration: we have added the FEAST registration number and date to the first paragraph of the Methods section.
  2. Protocol amendment: we have now included this in the Methods section (see FEAST trial randomisation strategy).
  3. Predictors of death in transfused children: we have now included this in the Discussion section (page 16 paragraph 2).
  4. We have ensured that the manuscript complies with the journal guidelines.

Best wishes,

Kath Maitland and Jane Crawley