Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of malaria rapid diagnostic tests by community health workers in Afghanistan: cluster randomised trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

With thanks to the reviewers for their comments, we are resubmitting revision 2 of the paper. Please find below responses to comments from the editors and reviewers.
From Editors:

Specifically, we would ask you to include all details concerning ethics approval and consent to participate in the Declarations section of the manuscript. Currently, the 'Ethics approval and consent to participate' statement references the Methods and it should be revised to list in full all relevant information i.e. the names of all the ethics committees that approved the study and whether consent to participate was required and/or obtained.

From Reviewer 1:

I have just a few additional minor suggestions listed below and one comment. The comment is that it might be worth suggesting a need for the development and testing of simple algorithms for CHWs to use in the case of non-malaria febrile illness (like iCCM or a variant thereof) as a strategy to try to reduce over-prescription of antibiotics for inappropriate indications such as the common cold.

AU: We have included a sentence at page 16, line 415.

Abstract. The first sentence in the Methods is incomplete.

Line 28. Should be "..result and treatment were compared...".

Line 53. Looks like a word is missing: "...was low ((53.2%)...).

Line 55. Test should be singular.
Page 4, line 55. The abbreviation, CQ, is introduced on page 7. Should be introduced here and used subsequently.

The abbreviation, CHWs, is introduced on page 4 but not used consistently (for example p5, line 21; p11, line 26; p 11, line 40 and several other locations in the Discussion).

On page 5 where the Afghan public health system is described, the abbreviations for BHC and CHC could be introduced.

Page 7, line 2. Should this be 'differed' rather than 'differing'?

Line 59. Could use CQ here and SP for SP and artesunate).

Page 10, line 52. Should be "Adjustment for covariates was...".

Page 13, line 50. No need for the comma after PCR results.

Page 14, line 43. Should be "most common alternative diagnoses recorded by CHWs were either...".

AU: All of these have been addressed in the manuscript

From reviewer 2: I Think the authors have adhered to comments made and that the ms has improved significantly

AU: With thanks for the review.
We look forward to publication,

Toby Leslie

Chris Whitty

Mark Rowland

For the authors.