Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical and cost-effectiveness of contingency management for cannabis use in early psychosis: the CIRCLE randomised clinical trial

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Reviewer 1 feedback

Point 1) In the absence of other symptomatic study of relapse it is more appropriate to refer to the outcome variable as acute psychiatric care.

We have now changed our description of the primary outcome throughout to some variation of "acute psychiatric admission".

Point 2) The authors could still more strongly say that this study is not focus on, nor is it able to make a definitive conclusion about the effectiveness of CM for cannabis use in this population. Studies that more rigorously assess drug use in both treatment groups are needed to make this distinction.

We agree that point is worth clarifying in our manuscript. We have now changed our limitations section (p.17) to include this point as the first limitation. We now state that CIRCLE was intended to be a pragmatic trial of a CM intervention that could be feasibly delivered through early intervention in psychosis services, but it is not a definitive trial of CM in this population. As such, more trials are required that have different study designs.

Editorial comments:

We have updated the declarations section at the end of the manuscript p.20-21 as requested.