Author’s response to reviews

Title: Supporting prescribing in older people with multimorbidity and significant polypharmacy in primary care (SPPiRE): a cluster randomised controlled trial protocol and pilot

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your comments.

Please find below the response the your comments:

1) CONSORT checklist included (see attached files)

2) This paper includes a brief description of the methods and results of the SPPiRE pilot study prior to presentation of the protocol methods and after the background and trial objectives. The rationale for this format is that the pilot study resulted in some minor modifications of the intervention.
3) Abstract edited (page 2)

a. Eligibility criteria for clusters included
b. To clarify that allocation will occur after patient recruitment and baseline data collection is complete and will be performed by an independent third party using randomisation and minimisation software.
c. To clarify that the primary outcome measures pertain to the individual patient level

4) Trial objectives edited (page 8, line 175)

a. To clarify that the objectives pertain to the patient level.

5) Recruitment and allocation edited (page 13, line 293)

a. To clarify that clusters will be randomly allocated using minimisation and randomisation software (by an independent researcher).

6) Outcome measure edited (page 15, line 345)

a. To clarify that primary outcome measures pertain to the patient.

7) Sample size edited (page 17, line 401)

a. To clarify that an equal cluster size of 15 patients per practice was assumed for sample size calculations.

Best Wishes,

Caroline McCarthy