

## Supplementary information

Supplementary Table 1. General practitioners' classification of the main problem presented by the patient in the consultation. The ratio of patients with a diagnosis of somatisation is presented for each GP.

GP from practice	Intervention group			GP from practice	Control group		
	Included	GP+	% GP+		Included	GP+	% GP+
A	60	2	3.3	E	79	2	2.5
SHP	67	3	4.5	E	64	2	3.1
B	68	4	5.9	SHP	56	3	5.4
A	65	4	6.2	SHP	50	3	6.0
SHP	46	3	6.5	F	63	4	6.3
C	53	4	7.5	G	67	5	7.5
SHP	63	6	9.5	SHP	74	6	8.1
A	59	6	10.2	H	87	8	9.2
D	62	7	11.3	SHP	53	5	9.4
C	76	9	11.8	H	70	7	10.0
SHP	66	8	12.1	E	66	7	10.6
A	60	8	13.3	E	77	9	11.7
D	99	16	16.2	G	88	12	13.6
SHP	68	11	16.2	SHP	111	16	14.4
SHP	82	14	17.1	F	65	11	16.9
SHP	72	14	19.4	SHP	106	20	18.9
B	109	22	20.2	G	64	14	21.9
B	100	22	22.0				
B	76	18	23.7				
D	56	19	33.9				
Total	1407				1240		
Mean (SD)			13.5 (7.7)				10.3 (5.4)

GP+: dichotomised classification by general practitioner = medically unexplained symptoms, mental illness or no physical symptoms. SHP = Single handed practice; <sup>a</sup> t-test with equal variances;

The diagnostic difference between the mean of groups is 3.2, (95% CI = -1.3 to 7.7),  $P=0.156^a$