Author's response to reviews

Title: Availability, price and affordability of cardiovascular medicines: A comparison across 36 countries using WHO/HAI data

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Utrecht, April 20th 2010

Melissa Norton, MD
Editor-in-Chief *BMC Cardiovascular disorders*
BioMed Central Ltd
236 Gray’s Inn Road, Floor 6
London, WC1X 8HL
United Kingdom

Dear Mrs Norton,

We hereby submit our revised manuscript entitled *Availability, price and affordability of cardiovascular medicines: A comparison across 36 countries using WHO/HAI data* by Maaike S.M. van Mourik, Alexandra Cameron, Margaret Ewen and Richard O. Laing.

Based on the reviewer’s reports we have made the following adjustments to the manuscript:
- The use of (unnecessary) acronyms and abbreviations has been diminished in the method’s section and with some further adjustments we hope the methods section is now easier to understand.
- The consumer price index is now explained in more detail.
- We attempted to remove repetition from the discussion, although in some situations the repetition or examples are necessary to adequately convey our message.
- The conclusions are now stronger and more specific.
- The y-axis on the figures has been labeled more explicitly and fonts and figure sizes have been adapted according to instructions.

As you requested, all changes have been highlighted using the ‘track changes’ module. The title page has been adapted according to journal style (without track changes).

We hope you will consider this manuscript now suitable for publication in *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders*.

Sincerely,

Maaike S.M. van Mourik