Author's response to reviews

Title: What challenges hamper Kenyan family physicians in pursuing their family medicine mandate? A qualitative study among family physicians and their colleagues

Authors:

Chiel TM van der Voort (chielvandervoort@gmail.com)
Geraldine van Kasteren (g.vankasteren@maastrichtuniversity.nl)
Patrick Chege (pcmasemiano@mu.ac.ke)
Geert-Jan Dinant (geertjan.dinant@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Version: 3 Date: 22 March 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter revised manuscript Kenyan family physicians – second round

Title: What challenges hamper Kenyan family physicians to pursue their mandate of family medicine? A qualitative study among family physicians and their colleagues

Response to the reviewer's reports of Liz Grant and corrections proposed by editor Miss Eden Bobier, on behalf of Dr Brian McKinstry.

Author's response:

We are grateful for the reviewer's response and the editor's corrections, as they have been very helpful to us. Below we give a point-by-point response on the mentioned concerns. All line numbers refer to document A, that is the manuscript which displays the changes made.

Response to reviewer Liz Grant:

1. I still have a few reservations about the usage of English and the methodology in the text as it is explained but I believe from the comments that the rigour of the study was acceptable. We appreciate the fact that the reviewer still has some reservations about the usage of English and the methodology in the text. As no specific examples are given by the reviewer, we rely on the corrections proposed by the editor as a basis of our revision. We are delighted to read that the reviewer believes that the rigour of the study was acceptable.

No changes were made in the manuscript.

Response to editor Miss Eden Bobier, on behalf of Dr Brian McKinstry:

1. The key documents, observation notes and answers obtained during the interviews and FGDs were coded and categorised and analysed thematically. 

The correction has been made as proposed in line 146.

2. This aspect became also evident when some of the FPs stated what prevented them from leaving the public sector to join the private

The correction has been made as proposed in line 186.

3. Direct colleagues had most difficulties discerning specific tasks assigned to FPs. I AM NOT SURE WHAT A DIRECT COLLEAGUE IS PLEASE CLARIFY

In lines 84-86 the term 'direct colleagues' has been changed into 'colleagues working at the same healthcare setting', and examples of these colleagues have been given, such as medical doctors, clinical officers, nurses and lab technicians. The term 'direct colleagues' is changed into 'colleagues' throughout the manuscript.

The correction has been made as proposed in line 219-220.

4. FPs particularly mention the satisfaction they get from not having to turn AWAY patients WITH DIFFERENT CONDITIONS, as a result of their BROADER SKILLS

The correction has been made as proposed in line 298.

5. One nurse described how the FP not just enhanced her medical knowledge, but also inducted ENcouraged her to providing care beyond the medical problem

The correction has been made as proposed in line 298.
6. While pointing out which roles they perceived, often automatically challenges to perform those roles came up. As they indicated the roles which they perceived themselves as carrying out, they also identified the challenges that performing these roles arose. *The correction has been made as proposed, except a minor edit. Please see lines 399-400.*

7. Once posted, FPs find themselves explaining their roles to their direct colleagues and the community. *WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ‘DIRECT COLLEAGUES’ THIS IS NOT A USUAL TERM IN ENGLISH PLEASE USE AN ALTERNATIVE THROUGHOUT THE TEXT. Please refer to correction 3 above.*

8. The overwhelmedness is not confined to FPs only. *THIS IS NOT A WORD IN ENGLISH. The sense of being overwhelmed. The correction has been made as proposed in line 563 as well as in line 621.*

9. FPs particularly mentioned that some registrars had not been **insisted** to write a community intervention project, while most had to do so. *(DO YOU MEAN ‘ENCOURAGED’, OR ‘TOLD’, We mean to say that all FPs should develop a community intervention project, but that some were allowed to graduate without having developed such a project. We changed the word 'insisted' into the word 'pushed'. Moreover we changed the word 'write' into 'develop' and further in the sentence we changed 'most had to do so' in 'this was one of the requirements of the programme'. Please see lines 744-746.*

10. Kenyan FPs **opted for** the specialism of family medicine to be of the greatest value to the Community. *(DO YOU MEAN ‘BELIEVED’) We changed the sentence into 'Kenyan FPs chose for the specialism of family medicine believing that would enable them to be of the greatest value to the community.’ Please see lines 737-738.*

11. Due to its timing and **BREADTH** this study... *The correction has been made as proposed in line 854.*

12. it has been proposed that other cadres, such as nurses and clinical officers, should get their own post-graduate **CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA/DEGREE?? in family medicine. We added the word 'degree' in line 894.*