Author's response to reviews

Title: The meaning of quality work from the general practitioner's perspective: an interview study.

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Version: 4 Date: 9 October 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Enclosed please find our revised manuscript: “The meaning of quality work from the general practitioner’s perspective: an interview study”.

Below is a point-by-point response to the reviewer Flora Haaijer-Ruskamp’s concerns and valuable comments.

Flora Haaijer-Ruskamp stated that the article of version 3 has improved but still provides little new information. This statement still contrasts the opinions of referee Th Rosemann, who expressed that the findings are important to those with closely related research interests and should be accepted without revision. Although our study does not result in new hypotheses, we believe it contributes to an increased understanding of the need for both perspectives – top-down and bottom-up – for making a systematic quality work possible.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
The study is a qualitative study with a phenomenological approach. The focus of this study is not the APO-method but GPs views on work with quality development in general. The APO-method is one of several methods for quality development in the health care in the Nordic countries and was mentioned as an example of a bottom-up model used by the doctors. If we would focus on the APO-method in our article, put it into an international perspective and let it constitute a central role for the conclusions, we would go beyond our aims. In the ‘Background’ we have included sections of text about similar approaches in Europe and worldwide together with some new references. In the methods and discussion sections we have toned down the authors’ experiences of audit and discussions about the meaning of the APO-method. We discuss our results in view of the Quality of Outcomes Framework and possible health gains as well as in view of imperfect evidence about guideline dissemination according to Grimshaw et al.

**Minor Essential Revisions**
The term ‘quality work’ is a direct translation of the Swedish term and was used by the interviewees as a comprehensive conception for different processes of following up, assessing and developing quality in primary care, which we have clarified further more in the background. We chose to use the term throughout the article.

However, in concordance with referee Th Rosemann we maintain our opinion that this study shows results of interest from the perspective of the individual general practitioner.

Please consider the study for publication in BMC Family Practice. All co-authors have seen and approved this revised version of the manuscript for publication.

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Sincerely,

Eva Lena Strandberg