Author's response to reviews

Title: Is there a need for a GP consultant in a university hospital?

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Groningen, August 26th 2008

We were very happy receiving the good news of publication in your journal.

We followed the suggestion of referee 2 and added his remark in the Discussion section of the manuscript.

Patient privacy. I am afraid there is a misunderstanding here. There is no patient with the name M.Crohn on p 11. This refers to the disease of this patient, i.e. Morbus Crohn also known as 'enteritis regionalis' an inflammatory bowel disease.

Ethics. We sent our protocol to the ethics committee of the University Medical Centre Groningen. In their answer they stated our study didn't need their approval, as we did not introduce an experiment and didn't publish any patient details. The head of the department Patientcare of the UMCG gave his written consent to our study.

Competing interests and Authors contributions. We have added these remarks to the proper section of the manuscript.

In the Acknowledgements we have added the funding of the study and for each author.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Schuling