Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with the goal of treatment in the last week of life in older patients: a population-based death certificate survey

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Concerning: Submission of manuscript “Factors associated with the goal of treatment in the last week of life in older patients”

Dear editor,

In response to your recommendations we made the requested changes to the formatting of our manuscript. We added a statement detailing what ethical approval has been obtained, including the name of the ethics committee. The following sentence has been added in the method section, page 8, paragraph 164-167:

“Positive recommendations for the anonymity procedure and study protocol were obtained from the Ethical Review Board of the University Hospital of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Ethics Committee of the University Hospital of Ghent University, the Belgian National Disciplinary Board of Physicians and the Belgian Federal Privacy Commission.”

We submit this paper as an original research article. It has not been submitted nor presented elsewhere before. The manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors. All authors were involved in the study conception, design, analysis and interpretation of the data, and in the writing of the manuscript. The corresponding author for the article is given in the manuscript and below in this letter. No potential conflicts of interest exist for none of the authors.

We hope you will consider selecting this manuscript for the review-process of your journal.

Yours sincerely,

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