Author's response to reviews

Title: The quality of maternity care services as experienced by women in the Netherlands

Authors:

Therese T.A. Wiegers (t.wiegers@nivel.nl)

Version: 4 Date: 22 April 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter to BMC

Dear Editors,

In response to your e-mail of April 20 with a final reviewers’ report I hereby send you the revised manuscript. In this letter I will give a point-to-point response to the concerns of the reviewer.

Response to the reviewer’s report

I sincerely thank the reviewer for her close reading, there was indeed an error in table 4 concerning the item ‘vacuum/forceps’. That is corrected now. In addition I have excluded the women with unknown parity from the data in both table 2 and table 4, and recalculated the percentages.

As the reviewer correctly concludes from my previous letter, there is some non-response on a number of questions, not only on the question about parity. The total data set consists of 793 women who filled out the questionnaire before they gave birth (17 failed to answer the question about parity). Of those 793 women, 632 also filled out a questionnaire after they gave birth (of 11 of them the information about parity was lacking).

The reviewer’s comment about table 6 is presumably meant for table 4, because in table 6 no distinction is made concerning parity. I trust that the changes I made, as described above, are enough to comply.

The reason why I put the brackets around the numbers in stead of around the percentages, is because the percentages are the most important data in these tables. They can be compared easily, while the numbers are more difficult to compare.

I thank the editors for their decision to accept the manuscript for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

Best regards,

Therese A. Wiegers
Utrecht, April 22, 2009