Author's response to reviews

Title: Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

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Version: 3 Date: 30 May 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

To: Editorial office
BMC Public Health Journal
Dear Sirs, Madams

This paper was first submitted to BMC Public Health on 12th January, 2012. There have since been two rounds of referee comments. The manuscript has now been revised according to referee comments and is hereby returned for your renewed consideration.

The major comment by reviewer in the second round is about correctly addressing the issue of exclusive breastfeeding in the paper. We now refrain from using the notion of “exclusive breastfeeding” for our own result. The information obtained at each monthly visit was: Child is only given breast milk or child is given breast milk and other food or child receives no breast milk at all. Breastfed means one of the first two options.

Children were not studied in hospital or directly observed. Mothers did not have all information of additional food given in hospital by health professionals. We have felt though that a distinction between a state when a child is given only breast milk and another where other food is also given has a certain interest. This leads to the use of two definitions of breastfeeding duration.

To study associations between breastfeeding and different factors we use the “breastfeeding only” variable. Associations with the duration of any breastfeeding are difficult to assess since the follow-up time is only one year and many children remain at least partly breastfed for quite long time.

Yours sincerely,

Huong Nguyen Thu