Author's response to reviews

Title: A motivational interviewing intervention to PREvent PAssive Smoke Exposure (PREPASE) in children with a high risk of asthma: design of a randomised controlled trial

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Maastricht, February 8, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript entitled “A motivational interviewing intervention to PREvent PAssive Smoke Exposure (PREPASE) in children with a high risk of asthma: design of a randomised controlled trial”, which we would like to submit for possible publication in the BMC Public Health Journal.

In this article we described the protocol of a motivational interviewing tailored program including urinary cotinine feedback towards eliminating or reducing passive smoke exposure at home in children with a high risk of asthma.

In the e-mail we received from you on February 1, 2013 you have made some requests and we would like to use this opportunity to address them:

1) You asked for us to clarify whether we have received ethical approval and external funding for the study; and to send evidence of the approvals to editorial@biomedcentral.com.
   Concerning the ethical approval:
   We confirm that we have received ethical approval for the study. This was also mentioned in the previous version of the manuscript as well as in the new version in line 538. We have translated the first approval letter from the ethics committee of the Maastricht University Medical Center and e-mailed it to the address as requested. We hope that this is sufficient evidence.
   Concerning the proof of external funding: we have stated (lines 539-542) in the manuscript that we have received funding from two external foundations. However, we have now removed one of the foundations, namely the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw grant 08-82305-97-12022) from the revised version of the manuscript since that grant is related to another part of our project not described in our manuscript. After consulting the financial administrator for evidence of the funding as you have requested, it appeared that the funding from this organization has not been guaranteed as yet. We therefore think that it is better to exclude this information from this study protocol article, as their possible funding is not concerning the effectiveness of the intervention study as described in the manuscript, but regards the cost-effectiveness of the intervention in case it is proven effective in the randomised
controlled trial. An original and English version of the proof of funding from the other external foundation, the Dutch Asthma foundation, has been sent to editorial@biomedcentral.com as requested.

2) You stated that it is required that the trial is registered in a suitable publicly accessible registry that meets all the ICMJE guideline. The trial has been registered in the Dutch Trial Register (www.trialregister.nl), as stated in the previous as well as the current versions of the abstract (line 62) and in the methods (line 539). The trial registration number is NTR2632. The Dutch Trial Register is recognized and accepted by the WHO and ICMJE.

3) You requested a list of other manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on the PREPASE study protocol. Two manuscripts have been currently submitted to other journals that are connected to the proposed manuscript:


   In this manuscript, we mentioned in the introduction that recruitment of families for a study aimed at preventing passive smoke in children is difficult and that recruitment could be facilitated through physicians. But, from the observations in the PREPASE study, we questioned to what extent the physicians in South Limburg address passive smoke exposure in children. Therefore, we evaluated the practices of the physicians working in paediatric field in South Limburg by means of an electronic survey.


   This manuscript reports our findings concerning the relationship between passive smoke exposure and respiratory complaints in children. The analysis has been performed with the data from our first two recruitment strategies via community registries and the Registration Network of Family Practices as described in the current manuscript in lines 156-159.
None of the articles has been accepted as yet.

4) You asked for English versions of all questionnaires that were specifically developed for the PREPASE study.
   We provided an English version of the items in questionnaires specifically developed for the PREPASE study as additional files.

5) Other changes made to the manuscript:
   1. We placed an extra reference to the ISAAC questionnaire, line 172.
   2. The sentence at lines 488-489, ‘and health-care utilization due to respiratory symptoms (developed by the department of Medical Technology Assessment, MUMC+),’ has been removed. Reason being that this part of the study corresponds to the possible grant from ZonMw as described above.
   3. The lay-out of table 2, ‘Overview of the outcome measures’ has been changed to make distinguishing between the outcomes measures more visible. The questionnaires has been rearranged and provided with references where possible to make it clearer which questionnaires were specifically developed for the PREPASE study and which were from standard questionnaires.

We hope that this current revision meets all your criteria and that your editorial board will find the paper suitable for publication.

We warrant that the material contained in the manuscript represents original work, has not been published elsewhere, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. Finally, we wish to suggest Prof. Sandra Wilson (wilsons@pamfri.org) and Dr. Thomas Keil (thomas.keil@charite.de) as potential peer reviewers.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Also on behalf of the co-authors, yours sincerely,

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