Author's response to reviews

Title: Somatic health among heroin addicts before and during opioid maintenance treatment: a retrospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor!

We have now revised our manuscript according to the remarks in your mail of Jan 8th 2007:

1) The section Material and Methods is renamed Methods.

2) The tables are revised according to your instructions:
   - All tables are divided into columns and rows and are oriented in a portrait page layout. The borders of all tables are in black visible lines.
   - The type size in the tables is changed from 12 to 10.
   - We have used individual rows for the subcategories of incidents in table 2

3) The additional file with the “old” tables has been removed.

4) In addition to the remarks in your letter, we have made minor changes in table 1 and 2:
   - Table 1: The third row “OMT medication” is removed. In stead “OMT medication” is put before “methadone” and “buprenorphine” in the two following rows. The indentation in these rows is removed.
   - Table 2: The row “Injection-related incidents” is changed to “Injection-related incidents, total***”, *** meaning: “Overdoses not included, subcategories of incidents in italic”. The indentation in the rows with subcategories is removed. The row “Total” (of subcategories) is removed, and the numbers in this row are moved to the row “Injection-related incidents, total***”. We find the table easier to understand this way. The numbers in all columns are right-justified.

5) One place in the manuscript the expression “disease episode” has been changed to “disease incident.

6) Author details have been changed to:
   Ivar Skeie\textsuperscript{1,2*}, Mette Brekke\textsuperscript{3}, Morten Lindbæk\textsuperscript{3}, Helge Waal\textsuperscript{1,2}

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(Faculty of medicine has been added, and the Addiction unit has been renamed to Norwegian Centre for Addiction Research)
In Acknowledgements the address has been simplified to: Chief physician, Department of Internal Medicine, Sykehuset Innlandet HF – Gjøvik, 2819 Gjøvik, Norway.

With these alterations we hope that the paper now is ready for publishing. If there is any problems, please notify us.

With best wishes,

Ivar Skeie
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