Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of alternative and complementary therapies in labour and delivery care, a cross-sectional study of midwives' training in Catalan hospitals accredited as centres for normal birth.

Authors:

Ester Munoz-Selles (estermuse@gmail.com)
Antoni Valles-Segales (antonivalles@ub.edu)
Josefina Goberna-Tricas (jgoberna@ub.edu)

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Use of alternative and complementary therapies in labor and delivery care: a cross-sectional study of midwives' training in Catalan hospitals accredited as centers for normal birth. Muñoz-Sellés E, Vallès Segalés A and Goberna-Tricas J.

We have received your editorial comments regarding our paper and respond to them point-by-point below. We have attached a revised version of the manuscript.

Associate Editor's Comments:

We note from your Methods section that your study was approved by the clinical research committees of two of the hospitals in which data was gathered, in addition to from your institutional ethics committee. Could we ask you to clarify why approval was not obtained from the other 26 hospitals, and who therefore granted permission for your study to take place in these?

The results presented in this paper are part of the research carried out by the first author in preparing her doctoral thesis, which was supervised by the third author. As is customary in the case of a PhD thesis, authorization was first requested from the Bioethics Committee of the University of Barcelona. Before starting the fieldwork, authorization was requested from the Ethics and Clinical Research Committees of the first two hospitals where the questionnaires were to be administered. After obtaining permission we contacted the Heads of Nursing at each of the remaining hospitals, providing them with a copy of the research project and the authorization of the Bioethics Committees of the University and the two first hospitals. The Heads of Nursing made arrangements with the clinical research and ethics committees at their hospitals and granted authorization for the researcher to conduct the studies. In all cases, the Heads of Nursing appointed a liaison officer to coordinate the distribution and collection of the questionnaires.
In the interests of clarity we have modified the wording of the first sentence of the ethical aspects paragraph, as follows:

This study was approved by the University of Barcelona Bioethics Committee and the Ethics and Clinical Research Committee of the first two hospitals where data were compiled. The other hospitals authorized the study after examining the project and after being notified of the authorization granted by the Bioethics Committees of the University and the two first hospitals.

We have also ensured that the manuscript complies with the journal’s style guidelines.

We hope that these changes help to clarify the concepts and that the paper will now be considered suitable for publication. We thank you for your attention.