Author's response to reviews

Title: Quality of written narrative feedback in a Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise: an observational study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/ Madam

Please find enclosed our revised version of the manuscript: Quality of written narrative feedback in a Mini–Clinical Evaluation Exercise: an observational study.

You asked us to make changes according to the ethics statement. In the Netherlands the medical ethical review boards do not assess research of medical education. They indicate that this is outside their field. In order to overcome this the NVMO–Ethical Review Board (NMVO–ERB) is started in July 2010 to judge medical educational research proposals according to medical educational ethical standards. Our data collection dates from 2009, before the NVMO–Ethical Review Board started. That is why there is no approval of an appropriate ethics committee. We, as a research group, find ethical values of paramount importance and we worked according to the ethical values (voluntariness and anonymity). We extensively described our procedure in the method section (participants and procedure). Hopefully this is good enough for the standards of BMC medical education. If you have any questions yet, please let us know.

Your second question related to the place of the Authors’ Contributions section and the Competing interest section. According to your instruction for authors we changed the order of these two sections. Sorry for our inattentiveness.

We are still convinced that this study adds new knowledge to the field of performance evaluation and that it constitutes a useful contribution to the field of medical education.

We hope that the editorial board will agree on the interest of this study.

With kind regards,

Elisabeth Pelgrim on behalf of the authors.