Author’s response to reviews

Title: Reporting of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in the Netherlands: descriptive study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Thank you very much that our manuscript; “Reporting of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in the Netherlands: descriptive study” is in principle accepted for publication in BMC Medical Ethics. We improved the manuscript by formatting the manuscript to the journal style and addressed the comments of reviewer 2 and of the editors of BMC Medical Ethics:

**Reviewer 2:**

The authors have responded satisfactorily to all the reviewers’ comments. The one minor revision they missed is to add the words ‘about their situation and prognosis’ ‘to Informing the patient’ in Table 5.

- We added ‘about their situation and prognosis’ in **Table 5, page 23.**

**BMC Medical Ethics:**

Please clarify the methods section of the revised version with details of the institutional review board that granted ethical approval for the study, or the circumstance under which the study was exempt from the need for such approval.

- We added the following sentence on **page 6 / 7:** “According to Dutch policy, the study did not require review by an ethics committee because the data collection was anonymous with regard to the deceased patient and the attending physician.”

Please use sentence case for all headings and subheadings in the manuscript, remove tracking from the manuscript, and change the order of funding / competing interests, etcetera.

- We formatted the manuscript according to the journal style.

**Other:**

- We made Hilde Buiting corresponding author

- Recently, a new form to report euthanasia has become available; the previous version is not available online anymore.

- We deleted the reference on **page 6**

- We added an additional sentence on **page 14 / 15** and included a reference to the website of the new standard form.

  “Recently, (June 2009), a new report form has become available [35]; the impact of these changes (which are partly in accordance with our recommendations) need to be awaited and studied.”