Author's response to reviews

Title: Is the Kaiser Permanente model superior in terms of clinical integration: A comparative study of Kaiser Permanente, Northern California and the Danish Healthcare System

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To Nina Titmus, Scientific Editor of BMC-series journals

Regarding: 1495498352278246 - Is the Kaiser Permanente model superior in terms of clinical integration: A comparative study of Kaiser Permanente, Northern California and the Danish healthcare system

We are very pleased that our paper has been selected for publication in BMC Health Services Research. We have improved the manuscript in response to the comments made by the reviewers and the editorial request (please see below for a point by point description of the changes made). Further we have ensured that the revised manuscript conforms to all of the points on the formatting checklist.

Point by point description of the changes made:

Reviewer comment: "...why not omit the term primary care...”
We agree with the reviewer that precision in use of the term “primary care” is very important when comparing healthcare systems. We have therefore chosen to distinguish clearly between “primary care clinicians” when referring to the clinicians working in Kaiser Permanente and uses the term “general practitioners” when referring to clinicians working at the primary care level at the Danish healthcare system. It should be emphasized that the Kaiser Permanente data is only based on data from clinicians who describes themselves as primary care clinicians. We therefore find the data reasonable comparable across the healthcare system settings. Since we agree that this is an important point we have also included it in the discussion section of the manuscript.

Editorial Board: "Informed consent must also be documented”
Because this study was conducted based on self-administered questionnaires, the IRB (In the US setting) waived informed consent requirements, as is common practice. Under Danish law no ethical review process is required. We have elaborated on these issues in the final version of the manuscript and described the country specific procedures in further details.

With best regards, on behalf of the authors
Martin Strandberg-Larsen