Author’s response to reviews

Title: An exploration of the enablers and barriers in access to the Dutch Healthcare System among Ghanaians in Amsterdam.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
12 March 2012

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Dear Dr. Harris,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to re-submit our paper titled "An exploration of the enablers and barriers in access to the Dutch healthcare system among Ghanaians in Amsterdam".

We are very pleased that the reviewers appreciated our work on the previous revision and commended our paper acceptable for publication. We thank the reviewers for their additional minor valuable comments. As you would find below, we have addressed all the minor comments and we hope that you will consider this revised paper for publication in BMC Health Services Research Journal.

This paper has been submitted to this journal exclusively and will not be published elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
Linda Boateng, Mary Nicolaou, Henriëtte Dijkshoorn, Karien Stronks, Charles Agyemang

**Responses to journal’s comments:**

In addition we wanted to ask you to include the following details:

* Please include a statement regarding informed consent from participants within your methods section
* Please include an authors' contributions section
Reply: We have now included a statement regarding informed consent from participants in the methods section. Kindly see lines 104-107. Additionally, we have included a section on author’s contribution as instructed. Kindly see lines 534-537.

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Responses to reviewer comments

Reviewer's report [1]

Reviewer: Ilse Blignault

The revised manuscript is much better; I recommend it's acceptance for publication with just a couple of minor essential revisions as described below.

Reply: We thank the reviewer for commending our work for publication, and for providing very useful comments.

(1) Background - The second sentence does not make sense/read well. What about: "Community perceptions of heath, such as cultural health beliefs and differences in understanding of diseases, have been linked to poor health care access."

Reply: The previous sentence has been deleted and replaced with the suggested sentence (line 48-50).

(2) Limitations and strengths of the study - Last sentence seems unfinished. What about: "The diversity of the participants contributes to the potential for transferability of the findings to other Ghanaian migrant communities."

Reply: We think the reviewer’s suggestion is important. Thus, we have replaced the previous sentence with the suggested sentence (line 390-391).

Reviewer's report [2]

Reviewer: Jeroen W. Knipscheer

The paper has been improved substantially compared to the first version – I very much appreciate the efforts the authors have been through to adequately address the issues raised. One suggestion could be considered though, concerning the cultural validity of the procedure.

Reply: We thank the reviewer for commending our work for publication and raising this important suggestion. The issue of the cultural validity of the procedure is now addressed in the methods section. The procedure we used is accepted by the study group. Kindly see lines 112-117.