Author's response to reviews

Title: Influences of local data collection and indicator computation on reported Dutch hospital performance indicator scores: Reliability first!

Authors:

Helen A Anema (h.a.anema@amc.uva.nl)
Job Kievit (J.Kievit@lumc.nl)
Claudia Fischer (c.fischer@amc.uva.nl)
Ewout W Steyerberg (e.steyerberg@erasmusmc.nl)
Niek S Klazinga (n.s.klazinga@amc.uva.nl)

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1) Ethical Approval - Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

According to the Dutch CCMO (Central Committee on Research involving human subjects http://www.ccmo-online.nl/main.asp?pid=10&sid=30&ssid=51) our study did not have to be approved by a medical-ethical committee, as it did not consist of research involving humans and there were no persons subject to manipulations, nor were there any persons who were required to follow up on behavioural rules. The study consisted of two sources of data 1) hospital managers that completed a survey, targeting the hospital's data infrastructure and 2) publically available hospital performance data, aggregated on hospital level. 40% of the Dutch invited hospitals gave informed consent to participate in the study and complete the survey. We now added a sentence in the method section, that medical ethical approval was not necessary, but informed consent was given by all participating hospitals.

2) Acknowledgement section should be moved to the end of the manuscript. 
This section is now moved to the end of the manuscript

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We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author’s contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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