Author's response to reviews

Title: Developing integrated care: a survey study to validate a four phases Development Model for Integrated care.

Authors:

Mirella MN Minkman (m.minkman@vilans.nl)
Robbert P Vermeulen (r.p.vermeulen@thorax.umcg.nl)
Kees TB Ahaus (c.t.b.ahaus@rug.nl)
Robbert Huijsman (huijsman@bmueur.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 30 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
re: Article submission Minkman et al.

Dear Mrs. Pafitis, dear Editorial team,

With this letter we would like to submit our article “The development of integrated care: a survey study to validate a four phases Development Model for Integrated Care” to your journal.

The article concerns the issue that many developed countries nowadays have to respond to the needs of patients with multiple needs and are exploring new approaches for delivering integrated care. The organisation and management of multidisciplinary and inter-organizational collaboration in all its aspects is essential for delivering coherent and seamless care, but are complex processes. Although there are many integrated care programs worldwide, research on this complexity in current health care and research on the development process of integrated care is only available to a limited extent.

Our article addresses this subject, and presents the results of an empirical study in 84 integrated care practices in the Netherlands, based on the Development Model for Integrated Care. This model was systematically developed in a pre-study by using multiple research methods, and was published recently also in your Journal. This article follows up our previous work and so completes new knowledge about the organisation of integrated care. I feel honoured to mention that this work, as a part of my recent PhD report, was rewarded this summer with the Karolinska Institutet Medical Management Centre/EHMA Research Award 2012.

With respect to the worldwide increasing need for integrated, seamless care and the global concern how to develop and manage integrated care in a quality-driven and cost-efficient manner, we think this research may be of interest to many of your readers and an international public. Enclosed please find a copy of our article. For this study no ethical approval was needed. The collected data did not address any individual nor group wise patient data, but focused on organisational aspects of integrated care.

We look forward to your response and thank you in anticipation. Also on behalf of my co-authors

Yours sincerely,

Mirella M.N. Minkman