Author’s response to reviews

Title: Bismarck or Beveridge: a beauty contest between dinosaurs

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Version: 3 Date: 15 March 2007

Author’s response to reviews:

Utrecht, 14 March 2007,

Dear editors,

Hereewith we would like to submit the second revision of our paper 'Bismarck or Beveridge: a beauty contest between dinosaurs'.

We have revised the abstract and the discussion, in order to give a more clearer opinion about the importance of equity in evaluating health care systems. Although we agree with the referee that equity is an important issue in this evaluation, we think that at this very moment the debate on the research agenda concerning equity is certainly not yet concluded. A discussion on which dimensions of equity (e.g. access, use, outcome, distribution of the financial burden) are (the most) important and how these dimensions should be measured is needed. We think this discussion is beyond the scope of our paper. However, the issue deserves full attention and we would propose a public discussion on this issue, for instance in your journal. We hope that our paper may serve as a starting point for this discussion.

Besides this, we have restructured the conclusion and discussion section in order to improve the readability.

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With kind regards, also on behalf of Prof. J. van der Zee,

Madelon Kroneman

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