Author's response to reviews

Title: Mortality in Dutch hospitals: Trends in time, place and cause of death after admission for myocardial infarction and stroke. An observational study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team,

**Mortality in Dutch hospitals: Trends in time, place and cause of death after admission for myocardial infarction and stroke. An observational study.**

We herein submit the final version of the manuscript “Mortality in Dutch hospitals: Trends in time, place and cause of death after admission for myocardial infarction and stroke. An observational study.” by LCJ Slobbe, OA Arah, A De Bruin and GP Westert to be considered for publication as a Research Article in your esteemed journal. We confirm again that the paper has not been previously published, nor is it being considered by any other journal. We thank the reviewers for their comments which considerably improved the manuscript. We also thank the editors for their positive decision on the publication of our article.

In this final version we have made the changes asked by the editor: The naming of the sections and the typography of title page and manuscript are now in compliance with your guidelines. We have also made the changes you’ve asked for:

1 **Highlighting/Tracking** – Please remove any highlighting/tracking from your manuscript text.
   - Has been removed.

2 **Introduction** - Please rename this section ‘Background’.
   - Has been changed.

3 **Methods** - Please document in the Methods section the details of the institutional review board that granted ethical approval for the study or the circumstances under which it was exempt from the need of such approval.
   - The following lines have been inserted:
     “Approval for the use of the anonymized patient data was covered by a general agreement between Statistics Netherlands and Prismant. In addition, the Dutch association of hospitals (NVZ) approved the use of the hospital registration data for this study. No separate ethical approval was necessary for the use of these data.”

4 **Competing interests** - If there are none to declare, please write ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’.
   - Has been done.

5 **Authors' contributions** - Please include an Authors' contributions section after the Competing interests.
   - The following text has been inserted:
     “LCJS performed the analysis, interpreted the results, and drafted the manuscript. OAA designed the study, helped interpret the results, and contributed to the discussion. AB provided and supervised preparation of data used in the study. GPW supervised the study and participated in the formulation of the discussion. All authors reviewed and edited the manuscript for intellectual content.”

6 **Tables** - Please place the titles of the tables above each table and not within its cells.
   - Has been done.
We confirm that all authors have read and approved the paper in its revised form. Mr. Slobbe will handle all correspondence about this paper. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Laurentius CJ Slobbe, MSc
&
Gert P. Westert, PhD

(On behalf of all authors)