Author's response to reviews

Title: The expenditure of time using clinical decision support systems in chronic pain therapy

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Eikermann,

Please note that we have uploaded our manuscript entitled “The expenditure of time using clinical decision support systems in chronic pain therapy” for potential publication as an original article in *BMC Anesthesiology*.

Polymedication, resulting from increased numbers of drug prescriptions among patients, is significantly associated with the risk of drug-drug interactions (DDIs). DDIs are a major issue in modern medicine especially with respect to adverse drug reactions (ADRs) that pose a serious threat to patient welfare. Of note, DDIs and ADRs are potentially avoidable by the use of Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSSs) for medication checking. Unfortunately, despite their benefits, CDSSs are not implemented in patient treatment regimens on a routine basis.

In our study we therefore addressed the question what could be potential deterrents for the regular use of CDSS. To this end we compared three different CDSSs to examine drug regimens of chronic pain patients for potential DDIs with special focus on the expenditure of time and workload. As major findings we report that in fact a large number of potential DDIs can be detected in existing medications and that only a rather modest expenditure of time would be required to spot and thereby avoid these DDIs. These findings are important arguments for employing CDSSs in an everyday hospital workflow in order to make drug prescription safer. Therefore, we believe that our study presents important new insights and should be well received by the readership of *BMC Anesthesiology*.

Sincerely,

Christoph Wiese (for the working group)

**Additional statement:**
This manuscript has not previously been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.