Author’s response to reviews

Title: Defining and describing birth centres in the Netherlands - a component study of the Dutch Birth Centre Study

Authors:

Marieke Hermus (maaklapwijk@gmail.com; marieke.hermus@tno.nl)
Inge Boesveld (i.boesveld@jvei.nl)
Marit Hitzert (m.hitzert@erasmusmc.nl)
Arie Franx (A.Franx-2@umcutrecht.nl)
Johanna de Graaf (j.degraaf@erasmusmc.nl)
Eric Steegers (e.a.p.steegers@erasmusmc.nl)
Therese Wiegers (t.wiegers@nivel.nl)
Karin van der Pal-de Bruin (K.M.van_der_pal-de_Bruin@lumc.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Heather Whitford

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Re: Manuscript ID: PRCH-D-16-00883R1

Leiden, April 13, 2017

Dear Ms Whitford,

Enclosed please find our revised version of Manuscript ID: PRCH-D-16-00883R1, entitled “Defining and describing birth centres in the Netherlands - a component study of the Dutch Birth Centre Study”.

Heather Whitford

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise and resubmit this manuscript. We appreciate the time and detail provided by the reviewers.

We carried out some essential revisions. A detailed response to each point raised can be find below. We have highlighted the changes in the text of the manuscript, for the ease of your review.

Kind regards,

On behalf of all authors,

Marieke Hermus, RM, MS

P5. L99: Please explain 'maternity care assistance organisations'

Reply: We explained this with a short addition in box 1 (see P 30 lines 623-624)

P 6, L119 – 122: Please correct tense to past tense throughout this addition. Please check tense throughout the whole manuscript.

Reply: We checked and corrected this in the addition as mentioned and throughout the whole manuscript.

P15, L350 – 354: This whole additional section needs rephrased for clarity. ‘a third’ is out of place – please rephrase (or use brackets?). ‘A higher proportion’ – not clear what this means.
Reply: We rephrased this section: Two out of six of the on-site birth centres claimed that ‘minimal obstetric interventions’ was an important or very important philosophy for their birth centre. For the philosophy ‘minimal pharmacological pain management’ this was the case for three out of six on-site birth centres. (see P 15 lines 347 to 351)

P18, L 422 – 424: this sentence needs a citation.
Reply: We added multiple citations.

P18, L 428: needs a citation (re international studies)
Reply: We added multiple citations.

Please correct throughout - noun ‘the practice’ and verb ‘to practise’
Reply: We corrected this in P16 L 371.