Author’s response to reviews

Title: A framework to assess welfare mix and service provision models in health and social welfare: case studies of two prominent Italian regions

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,
Following your e-mail, that we received the 10th of July 2014, we provide a third revised version of our paper “A framework to assess welfare mix and service provision models in health and social welfare: case studies of two prominent Italian regions”.

In your e-mail, you asked us to be more clear regarding ethics statement and the approval of an ethics committee or others.

In our research, and thus in our paper, we did not need and required any approval by ethics committee because we did not involve in our study any patients or other peculiar categories.

For this reason, considering that no patient has been enrolled in the focus group and no sensible information has been discussed during the focus group, no ethical statement has been required because not necessary. By focus group, in this paper, we mean participant observation of a meeting of professionals and managers sharing perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes towards their work activity. For this purpose, we received the consensus of all the single professionals and managers participating to the focus group and of their home institution.

We have add this explanation also in the Methods section of our paper (line 381-387 in the revised version).

Thank you for the attention that you have paid to our paper,
We hope to have satisfied all of your request,
Yours faithfully
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