Author’s response to reviews

Title: Changes in public attitudes towards confidential adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in Lithuania after the introduction of new legislation: findings of the cross-sectional surveys conducted in 2005 and 2012

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Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the manuscript entitled ‘Changes in public attitudes towards confidential adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in Lithuania after the introduction of new legislation: findings of the cross-sectional surveys conducted in 2005 and 2012’ for your consideration.

Confidentiality protection in adolescents’ reproductive healthcare remains a controversial issue in many countries, not only Lithuania. Although confidentiality in adolescent health care is a well-researched topic, surveys are mostly performed among adolescents, parents, health providers and others professionals. Public opinion about this issue has not been scientifically investigated in-depth.

Our manuscript presents the changes in Lithuanian residents’ attitudes towards confidentiality protection in adolescent sexual and reproductive healthcare by comparing data from surveys carried out in 2005 and 2012. The fact that the right to confidentiality in healthcare for adolescents over the age of 16 was legislated in 2010 in Lithuania makes this comparison unique.

Our study revealed that legislation could be a factor prompting changes in public opinion, but not sufficient in and of itself for its social acceptance. We believe that these findings could have important practical implications.

We have already published two articles from the same dataset:
- Jaruseviciene L, Zaborskis A, Lazarus JV. Public expectations concerning

We hope that the attached manuscript will be of interest to the many readers of BMC Health Services Research. All statistical analysis were undertaken by a statistician, Prof. A. Zaborskis. This paper is not under consideration by another journal and will not be submitted to any other journal while under consideration by BMC Health Services Research.

We declare that we have no conflicts of interest. All authors have read and agreed upon the final version of the manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you and the referees.

With best regards,
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