Author's response to reviews

Title: Equity impact of a choice reform and change in reimbursement system in primary care in Stockholm County Council

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Equity impact of a choice reform and change in reimbursement system in primary care in Stockholm County Council?

To the Editor,
BMC, Heath Service Research

We would like to thank both the reviewers and the editor for all the helpful comments we have received during this review process on our manuscript with the title “Equity impact of a choice reform and change in reimbursement system in primary care in Stockholm County Council? (MS: 1179744514165586). We have followed the latest comments from the reviewers and hope that the changes we have made address the comments satisfactorily.

Response to Reviewer 1´s comments:
Reviewer 1 pointed out a typing error in the last paragraph of the Introduction. We appreciate the thorough reading and the error is now corrected.

Response to Reviewer 2´s comments:
Reviewer 2 asked if we could specify the novelty of the study more distinctly under strength and limitation. The following paragraph has been added to the discussion under strength and limitation:
There is a lack of scientific studies about how health care reforms and especially changes in reimbursement systems affect equity in health and health care utilization. This study contributes to bridging that knowledge gap and is, to our knowledge, the first scientific study to investigate the equity perspective of the primary care reform in Stockholm County. Effects of policy changes may be very dependent on the context in which they are implemented. Nevertheless, the conclusions of this study may be useful to policy makers when changing reimbursement systems in other contexts. As most health policy documents underline the importance of equity and providing services according to need, health care reforms should be evaluated from this aspect.

Reviewer 2 asked us to reconsider using graphs to present the results instead of tables. We still find it difficult to include the data we want in an efficient way in graphs and have chosen to keep the tables instead.

We hope that these changes are satisfactory and that the manuscript now meets with your approval.

Yours sincerely

Janne Agerholm

(Corresponding author on behalf of the other co-authors)