**Additional file 4**

**Structure of the Evaluation Sheet**

The rating schedule assessed students’ communicative skill performances and attitudinal changes on the videotaped interviews. The schedule covered important aspects of a smoking cessation intervention, including essential elements of brief motivational interviews [1-3] as indicated in the literature. The rating schedule has 2 sections with a total of 33 individual items.

Section 1 “Skills” (20 items) evaluated the extent that the students’ interviews covered a list of substantial contents for an “optimal” smoking cessation counselling technique, ranging from 1) identification of tobacco use; 2) encouragement to reflect on smoking behaviour; 3) offer of support smoking cessation (i.e., Ask, Advise and Assist). This section is shown in Appendix 2.

Finally the blinded independent evaluators had to ascertain whether the 5-minute video sequence of the recorded smoking cessation counselling was attended by the student prior to or after the course.

Section 2 (13 items) registered and measured the interviewer’s attitude in order to evaluate the course’s impact on attitudinal shifts, as well as e.g. harmonic interviewing style and body synchronicity: all of which are indispensable for an empathetic approach.

They were able to add written statements and observations concerning their decisions.

**References**

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3. Martino S, Haeseler F, Belitsky R, Pantalon M, Fortin At: Teaching brief motivational interviewing to Year three medical students. *Med Educ* 2007, 41:160-167.