

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Birgit van Staaij was born on 23 July 1965 in The Hague, The Netherlands. In 1983, after graduating secondary school at the Bisschoppelijk College in Weert (gymnasium beta), she started Medical School at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. On 7 November 1988 she obtained her doctor's degree with the certificate "clear pass". She obtained her MD degree in July 1991. During the following years she worked as a physician in department of surgery in Barnstaple, England and in Hospital Gooi-Noord in Blaricum, The Netherlands and in the nursing home St Elisabeth Verpleeg- en Gasthuis in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. In May 1994 she started with the 2-years general practitioners training at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. From May 1996 till 1998 she worked as a general practitioner. In April 1999 she started the work described in this thesis at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Center Utrecht (supervised by Prof. Dr. AW Hoes and Dr. AGM Schilder). The project was financial supported by the Dutch Health Care Insurance Board. Besides, she works as a general practitioner in Soest.