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A bundle of joy? Evaluating bundled payments for maternity care in the Netherlands

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A bundle of joy?

Evaluating bundled payments for
maternity care in the Netherlands

Zoë Tanna Martina Scheefhals

A bundle of joy

The phrase ‘a bundle of joy’ is a warm and affectionate way to refer to a newborn baby. It emphasizes the happiness and excitement that a baby brings to their family. The word ‘bundle’ suggests that the baby is small, wrapped up snugly, and precious, while ‘joy’ highlights the overwhelming happiness and love they bring. The phrase can sometimes be used more broadly to describe anything that brings great happiness, but it's most commonly associated with babies¹.

In this thesis, I explored whether the bundled payment model for maternity care in the Netherlands can be considered ‘a bundle of joy’.

1 Grammarist. Bundle of Joy – Idiom, Meaning & Origin. 2025. Available from: <https://grammarist.com/idiom/bundle-of-joy/>

COLOPHON

A bundle of joy? Evaluating bundled payments for maternity care in the Netherlands
Zoë Tanna Martina Scheefhals, 2026

The research for this dissertation was conducted at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), department of Population Health and Health services research, and the Health Campus The Hague, department of Public Health and Primary Care, Leiden University Medical Centre. The studies presented in this dissertation were conducted as part of the RIVM-monitor on bundled payments for maternity care (in Dutch: Monitor Passende bekostiging geboortezorg). The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport commissioned the RIVM for this monitor.

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A bundle of joy?

**Evaluating bundled payments for maternity care
in the Netherlands**

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