

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Reducing unnecessary hospital days to improve quality of care through physician accountability: a cluster randomised trial

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Dear Editor,

we are submitting to your attention the revised version (with changes highlighted) of our paper entitled “Reducing unnecessary hospital days to improve quality of care through physician accountability: a cluster randomised trial”. We are glad to see that the referees are generally satisfied with the way their concerns have been addressed, and thank them for their comments which have been very helpful in improving our paper. Referee 2 has rightly raised two more issues to which we are happy to respond as follows:

1. We realize that our statements regarding follow-up may sound like an over-interpretation of findings. We have therefore stressed in the abstract and text that results were non-significant.
2. We agree with the concern expressed by the reviewer, and thus have analyzed readmission and mortality rates separately. We are grateful for this observation also because it allowed us to detect an error in our analysis concerning the denominator, which we have now corrected, reporting both absolute and relative values (page 12).

We hope these changes are satisfactory, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Caterina Caminiti