Author's response to reviews

Title: Can care of elderly be measured? Development of an assessment instrument to measure care needs in nursing homes for older people

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COVER LETTER
Comments to the Reviewer Christa Lohrmann.

Thank you for your most valuable review. We have followed your suggestions and made the following changes:

Title
The title has been changed to more accurately reflect the content of the manuscript.

Background
A special section called “The Time in Care instrument” has been added in order to give a brief description of the instrument as well as a table containing the items. The instrument has been developed by the first author which can be assigned to the reference in the first paragraph of this section. A table has been added to show the items of the TIC-n instrument (Table 1).

An explanation to clearly state who should use the instrument has been made in the second part of the paragraph “The Time in Care instrument”.

Method part
The reason why five new items have been added is explained in the first paragraph of this section.

The structure of the analysis paragraph has been changed to clearly reflect the aspect of validity and reliability, respectively.

Explanation of an “independent observer” has been made in paragraph four.

In the part about the ethical considerations has the sentence where we stated that the purpose of the study was quality assurance of care for the elderly been taken away, as this was not the focus of the study.
Discussion part
The result of the factor analysis has been compared and explained in the first paragraph of the discussion part.

In the second paragraph of the discussion an explanation has been made about the use of a revised manual. The reliability aspects are discussed in detail.

The explanation of the low agreement for two items has been discussed in paragraph three of the discussion part and an explanation has been given about the differences of the agreement in the two municipalities by the items Rehabilitation and Orientation.

Conclusion part
The conclusion part has been changed to reflect how the instrument can be used.

Finally some examples of assessment instruments are mentioned in the Background, particularly those instruments which are most commonly used in the Nordic countries.

The language has once more been checked by a professional translator.

Yours sincerely
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