Author’s response to reviews

Title: Patient perceptions of safety and quality of maternity clinical handover

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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To the Editorial Committee of BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth,

RE: MS: 1350783654516050 Patient perceptions of safety and quality of maternity clinical handover

Thank you for considering this revised manuscript for publication in your journal and for the positive response you have given us so far.

Changes to this manuscript have been highlighted in yellow for your reference.

The revisions from the last editorial review and our responses are listed below:

- In the abstract should it be ‘patients’ plural in the background section?

  RESPONSE: This change has been made to the text.

- In the abstract should the first sentence in the methods section be: ‘This paper reports on a mixed methods study consisting of qualitative interviews and quantitative medical record analysis’?

  RESPONSE: This change has been made to the text.

- In the background section of the main text, the first 3 paragraphs have no references. The manuscript would benefit from an academic reference or two to support it.

  RESPONSE: References have been added to this section. As two of the authors work clinically within maternity, their experience regarding these aspects of the background also supports these statements.

- In the methodology section of the main text, should the first line read: ‘This paper reports on a mixed methods study consisting of qualitative interviews and quantitative medical record analysis’?

  RESPONSE: This change has been made to the text including additional comment made regarding the consent to access patient medical records (this has also been mentioned in this and previous versions of the manuscript later in the methods section).

- In the methodology section of the main text, could a methodological reference be supplied to support the statement: "Recognising the relative vulnerability of participants given their in-patient status and recent childbirth, and to enhance engagement with the researcher, interviews were not audio-recorded; ..."

  RESPONSE: References have been added to the manuscript.

- Please re-format the table as the journal is unable to display vertical lines. Please ensure the table title is above the table and the legend below the table.

  RESPONSE: The table has been re-formatted.

Thank you again for considering this manuscript and we look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,