Author's response to reviews

Title: Pediatrician's Perspectives on Discharge Against Medical Advice (DAMA) among Pediatric Patients: A Qualitative Study

Authors:

   Bernadette C. Macrohon (bcchuamacrohon@gmail.com)

Version: 3 Date: 23 February 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
22 February 2012

Ms. Emilie Aime  
Executive Editor  
Biomed Central  
London, U.K.

Dear Ms. Aime;

Greetings!

Thank you for the reminder regarding my research study entitled “Pediatrician’s Perspectives on Discharge Against Medical Advice (DAMA) among Pediatric Patients: A Qualitative Study”

I would like to submit my revised research paper with the following revisions based on the comments by the reviewers item-per-item:

Reviewer: Saskia Junger

Major Revisions:
1. The rationale for using a focus group discussion approach was presented under Research Design  
2. Additional details were provided under the “Data Collection” section  
3. Analysis of the transcript was further clarified and presented  
4. The Results and Discussion section was divided into separate parts in the manuscript  
5. In the Results section, quotations from the transcript were included to illustrate the categories  
6. The last section in the “Definition of DAMA” has been moved to the Discussion section  
7. Regarding malpractice suits, this was mentioned by the participants and was revised accordingly in the Results as well as the Discussion sections. In the second paragraph under “Factors”, I have adapted the suggested wordings of the statements  
8. Under the “Factors” section, end of the second paragraph, I have revised the statements according to the recommended wording  
9. A separate discussion section was included and some cultural aspects have been included  
10. Implications for future research was inserted in the last part of the Discussion  
11. The insight noted in the third paragraph of the “Factors” has been moved to the section on Discussion  
12. The last sentence on the second major factor under “Factors” has been moved to the Discussion section  
13. The third major factor statement has been moved to the Discussion section  
14. The last sentences of the section on “Implications of a DAMA request has been moved to the Discussion section  
15. The strengths and limitations of the study are discussed towards the end of the discussion  
16. The grammar and spelling has been checked by a colleague adept in English
Minor Revisions:
1. The sentences on the rates of DAMA in different patient groups has been rearranged
2. - 5. The sentences were revised according to the suggestions of the reviewer
6. The sentence regarding Weingart’s report has been clarified
7. The sentence on Alfandre’s review has been clarified
8. - 13. The sentences have been revised according to the reviewer’s suggestions
14. With regards to the parents’ wish to care for the child at home during his or her last phase of life, this was not reported by the participants, although I, myself, have received such a request from my own private patients. However, since this finding was not mentioned, I did not include it
15. - 19. The sentences were revised according to the reviewer’s suggestions

Discretionary Revisions:
1. The sentence “However, their response to these factors....” has been revised to avoid redundancy.
2. The use of the term “viewpoint” in the beginning of the third paragraph under “Factors considered before giving the DAMA order” has been revised and clarified
3. The term “good” has been changed to “important”, as this expresses what I mean better.

Reviewer: Eberechukwu Onukwugha

Major Revisions:
1. Clarification was made that the rates provided for Singapore institution and ZCMC pertain to the pediatric population.
2. Clarification on “inconvenience of hospitalization” and “dissatisfaction with management” were made by inserting phrases to explain and also expounded further in the Discussion section
3. Renumeration for the residents’ participation was clarified under the methods section and reiteration of a total count of 11 residents was done
4. Analysis part was expounded on
5. The Results section was separated from the Discussion section.
6. Limitations are discussed in the second to the last paragraph of the Discussion section

Minor revisions:
1. I revised the use of DAMA to Discharge Against Medical Advice in the title and the background section to avoid confusion
2. The background section has been revised and reworded to provide a more homogenous discussion

Discretionary revisions
1. HPR rates are not available for ZCMC from 2005 to 2010
2. The author collected demographic information about the residents and have been included in the manuscript
3. The uniform use and a definite description for the terms “DAMA” and “HPR” have been included in the Discussion section

Reviewer: Chris Feudtner

1. There is not much I can do to increase the number of the sample because in the entire region of Southwestern Mindanao, only the ZCMC has a pediatric training program and
the hospital has a specific number of residents that it trains per year, thus limiting the study to only 11 residents. A suggestion was made in the last paragraph of the Discussions section to expand the study to include other privately practicing pediatricians outside the low-income setting.

2. The issue on the fact that none of the residents thought that dissatisfaction with physician care was a factor for DAMA is further expounded in the Discussion part.

3. The conclusion was revised to express my additional findings better.

Attached herewith is the revised study. Thank you very much for your kind patience.

Kind Regards,

Bernadette C. Macrohon, MD