Author's response to reviews

Title: Do Electronic Health Records Affect the Patient-Psychiatrist Relationship? A Before & After Study of Psychiatric Outpatients

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Version: 5 Date: 3 December 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Psychiatry:

My co-authors and I appreciate the opportunity to further refine our manuscript, specifically by adding details on the survey we used. To this end, we made the following changes:

1. In the "Instrument & Data Collection" paragraphs of the Methods section, we noted that the locally generated questions were prepared rationally, without validation or statistical analysis. We substantially elaborated on the non-statistical process we used to attempt to increase the rigor of survey design.

2. We calculated Cronbach's alpha for each subscale and added a sentence to this effect in the "Data Analysis" section.

3. A paragraph was added to the Results section describing the internal consistency reliability of the survey. Table 3 was added, showing standardized Cronbach's alpha for each of our subscales. For comparison, it also shows alpha for the corresponding subscales of the original PSQ-18.

4. Because we are relying on face validity for summarization and interpretation of some results, Table 2 has been streamlined to more clearly show the survey questions that were grouped into each subscale and the source of each question.

Thank you for allowing us to revise and resubmit the manuscript. Our aim for the current round of revisions is to present findings in such a way that they can be properly interpreted in spite of the shortcomings in the survey design.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Stewart