Author's response to reviews

Title: Validation of a brief suicide risk screening tool in a Chinese population

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As suggested by the Editorial Office, we have inserted the participants’ informed consent in line 4-5 of page 7 (i.e. “The patients and nurses were interviewed…after they provided written consent forms”).

Additionally, we wish to clarify that, rather than from a distinct qualitative study, the nursing part of the study was derived from a previous intervention carried out by the first author after the main psychometric evaluations of the scale (i.e. Chinese version of the SAD PERSONS Scale, CSPS).

Thus, from the nursing data in this study, our aims were simply to present the nurses’ evaluation towards the use of CSPS in a post-intervention satisfaction survey, and to analyse the test-retest reliability of their ratings in the previous study. The rationale we adopted prior gathered retest data to justify the reliability of the CSPS in this study was that it is a less ethical consideration and an impractical act to perform retest on people with self-harm behaviour in clinical settings. Therefore, the nursing participants were collected to provide richer evidence-based data in order to complement this validation study.