Author's response to reviews

Title: Attitudes of clinical staff towards the causes and management of aggression in acute old age psychiatry inpatient units

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor and Reviewer David Pulsford,

Our sincere thanks for accepting, in principle, our manuscript for publication in BMC Psychiatry. As well, we would like to thank you, again, for your helpful and constructive feedback about our manuscript. Based on your comments, we have made relevant revisions to the manuscript, which are highlighted in ‘yellow.’ We have kept our responses below as brief as possible.

Overall, the manuscript has been amended in the spirit of David’s comments. We hope you agree.

Yours in appreciation,

The Authors.

Editor’s comment.
We request that you go through the manuscript formatting checklist one more time and ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to all of the points.

Response. We have checked the formatting checklist to ensure the manuscript complies with these guidelines.

Reviewer 1: David Pulsford
Discretionary revisions:

1. I’m still a bit bemused that a 4-point likert scale was used as this hasn’t been done in other MAVAS studies. If this is the version the team were given then so be it, but the team might want to comment on this.

Response. We are also a little bemused because we are in receipt of the original email from the author of the scale, which contains the 4-point likert scale we used. So as not to cause any confusion amongst readers of our manuscript, we have added the following clarification in the Instrument section (p.9, para. 2) about the availability of a 5-point version of the scale: ‘(A 5-point version of the scale is also available).’

2. The team might want to say a bit more in the discussion/conclusion regarding the implications of their findings - do the staff attitudes identified represent positive attitudes regarding aggression management with this client group?

Response. We thank you for this comment. We have added more information in the Conclusions section (p.16, para. 2) about the implications of our findings. Information was already included in the section about the types of attitudes these represented.

3. Some awkward language in places could be edited a bit Level of

Response. We have reviewed the entire manuscript and made minor amendments.