Reviewer's report

Title: IT-adoption of Clinical Information Systems in Austrian and German Hospitals: Results of a Comparative Survey with a Focus on Nursing

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Reviewer: Jos Aarts

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Comparative studies in health informatics across countries are interesting since they allow to get insight how IT is being developed, implemented and used given country specific characteristics. As such this comparative study is disappointing in terms of comparing two different German speaking countries. There are differences, but my response would be "So what?" The authors present digital imaging as an indicator that shows different numbers in each country. Similarly, for what is the number of PCs on a ward a proxy? What does it tell? What is the relation between this indicator and nursing? It would be more interesting if the authors would present a more detailed analysis of each country's health care system (in this case focused on nursing) en suggest/hypothesize whether then differences would be observed (or not). For example, it might be interesting to know whether the practice and organization of nursing is different or similar in each country. What is the level of nursing education in each country? How is the nurse/patient rate? Then an analysis of the findings would be become more interesting. In my view, the background and discussion section needs to be rewritten to make this comparative study exciting.

I pick now some issues in more detail, page by page.

Page 2 "In contrast, ..." The argumentation is not very clear, I have difficulty to understand what the authors aim at. For example, what is a "super-macro level"? My understanding of macro-, meso- and micro-level, is that the former is about state/country level, and the former about work place level. What is meaning of bringing up UTAUT? Is this theory being used in analyzing the comparison data?

Page 5 "The objectives ..." Here is the core of my problem with this paper. It emphasizes a description, not a research question.

Page 9 "Nursing Terminologies." What does the use of nursing terminologies say about nursing?

My suggestion how to improve the paper is to introduce a research problem that will be phrased in terms of characteristics of nursing in both countries, then present the results and discuss how differences and similarities should be understood. I have no doubt that the survey was carried out properly, and that the analysis of data was equally done properly. My problem is about the context how the comparison should be understood.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.