Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing nurses' compliance with Standard Precautions in order to avoid occupational exposure to microorganisms: A focus group study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

We would like to thank you for considering our manuscript for publication, and giving us the opportunity to revise and resubmit it. We have made every effort to revise our manuscript based on the reviewers’ and your comments and recommendations. Below we provide a detailed response based on the reviewers’ comments. Changes within the manuscript are marked with blue colour.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me via e-mail. I would like to thank you very much in advance for your consideration.

Response to Reviewer’s Elucir Gir comments
The authors would like to thank the reviewer for re-reviewing the manuscript, and considering this as ready for publication. The reviewer’s comments have certainly improved the content of the manuscript.

Response to Reviewer’s Mary-Louise McLaws comments
2. The authors would like to thank the reviewer for giving them the opportunity to improve the content of the manuscript on this point, by fully addressing the reviewer’s previous comments.

5. A sentence has now been added stating that the moderator made sure that each participant had equal chance to express his/her opinion, and that no person could dominate the discussion for any reason (this was also made clear to the participants before the beginning of each meeting). In addition, both the facilitator and the main researcher jointly evaluated the recorded conversations, and concluded that no participant dominated any of the discussions, or by any means its opinion was influenced. Both the facilitators and the main researcher’s observations during the discussion verified the above. This is also stated in the manuscript.
7. This issue has now been addressed within the manuscript

8. The authors accept and appreciate the value of the reviewer’s comment on this point. Nevertheless, the research team wanted to explore the participants opinion, therefore the facilitator had clear instructions to explore deeper only those issues that came up during the discussion. The authors acknowledge that this may have led to the omission of reporting some data, and this is now reported as a limitation.

9. The authors would like to thank the reviewer for this comment. Following further analysis of the transcripts, the authors have now included an additional paragraph and a table, following the reviewer’s suggestion. Rank scales on most and less influential factors that influence nurses’ compliance (based on the focus groups data) have now been added.

11. The authors clearly agree with the reviewer’s comment on this point. Discussion part has been re-written, discussing in more details the results.

We hope that the above cover the considerations and suggestions of the reviewer.

The authors confirm that they agree on the above comments.

On behalf of all authors

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