Reviewer's report

Title: Managing change in the nursing shift handover from traditional to bedside handover - a case study from Mauritius

Version: 4 Date: 15 November 2004

Reviewer: Elizabeth Manias

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General
The authors have addressed the majority of my concerns. There are still some areas that require further clarification.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Not applicable.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
These must be attended to by the authors. Compulsory revisions are mainly of a typographical nature.
1. On p. 2, par. 2, state: 'This study was undertaken in a 28-bed gynaecological ward …'
2. On p. 2, par. 2, rewrite sentence commencing with: There were 21 qualified nurses …' as it is confusing. You indicate there are different numbers of qualified nurses (21 versus 14) in the one sentence.
3. On p. 3, par 1, change the word 'includes' to 'included' for sentence beginning with: The verbal handover was derived …'
4. On p. 3, par. 1, add the word nurses between the words 'about' and 'not being involved'
5. On p. 4, par. 1, rewrite first sentence as: The root cause of the problem identified was the model of handover used to communicate clinical information'.
6. On p. 4, par. 1, rewrite second sentence as: 'As a benchmark, the findings from evidence on the bedside handover …'
7. On p. 4, par. 1, rewrite sentence as: 'Webster … have argued that bedside handovers offer an immediate …'
8. On p. 5, par. 1, rewrite sentence as: 'In the light of the above findings, the bedside handover had become …'
9. On p. 5, par. 2, you will need to rewrite the sentence within the Theories underpinning the change process section. It is very confusing.
10. On p. 5, par. 3, rewrite the sentence as: ‘Unfreezing is about encouraging people to think critically about the current situation…”
12. On p. 6, par. 2, rewrite the sentence as: ‘A group of senior nurses who had experience … agreed to take turns to act…’
13. On p. 8, par. 2, the sentence beginning with: 'The mission statement …’ has double inverted commas commencing the quote and single inverted commas completing the quote.
14. On p. 8, par. 3, remove the sentence beginning with: 'An analysis of the forces…’ as it is confusing and it does not add anything to your argument.
15. On p. 8, par. 3, with the last sentence on the page, change the words ‘keeping confidentiality’ to ‘maintaining confidentiality’.
16. On p. 9, par. 1, insert Table 2 in brackets.
17. On p. 9, par. 1, change last sentence of paragraph to read: ‘A one-month period was judged sufficient to unfreeze the situation and the remainder to implement and evaluate the change’.
18. On p. 9, par. 2, reword the sentence as: With this in mind, … in advance to encourage the nurses…’.
19. On p. 10, par. 2, add the word ‘and’ between ‘explain’ and ‘clarify’.
20. On p. 12, par. 1, change ‘bed side’ to ‘bedside’.
21. On p. 13, par. 2, rewrite sentence as: ‘Analysis of results … 10 handovers (Table 2) show that the first …’
22. On p. 14, par. 1, rewrite sentence as: ‘Analysis … as shown in Table 3’.
23. On p. 14, par. 1, rewrite sentence as: ‘A 96% overall satisfaction level was achieved’.
24. On p. 15, par. 2, rewrite sentence as: ‘The normative re-education, … in line with Bernhard and Walsh …’
25. Replace all secondary sources of references with primary sources. This concern was raised in the initial review and it has not been addressed.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Not applicable.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
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
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.