Author's response to reviews

Title: Are patient falls in the hospital associated with lunar cycles? A retrospective observational study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE Manuscript “Are patient falls in the hospital associated with lunar cycles?”

Dear Editors

Thank you very much for your message. We have done our best to include the reviewer’s comments. Please find enclosed the revised version (online resubmission) of the manuscript and a cover letter with a detailed account of changes made.

As principal author, René Schwendimann signs this letter on behalf of all co-authors. All co-authors have seen and approved the manuscript, and made a direct and significant contribution to the work.

Sincerely Yours

René Schwendimann
Major Compulsory Revision (Reviewer RWK)

The sentence in the abstract (page 2) was not changed, since on page 3 (Background), two sentences (line 8, and 9 to 10) were restated as requested by the reviewer to address the origins of these beliefs of health care professionals.

Minor essential revision (Reviewer RWK)

All minor wording and spelling errors were corrected as requested
Page 2, abstract, line 3 and 4;
Page 3, background, line 15;
Page 8, discussion, line 15, the sentence was reformulated and a sentence was added with findings from another study regarding influences for these beliefs.

Discretionary revisions (Reviewer RWK)

Since the primary aim of this study was to examine in-patient fall rates on hospital level including three clinical departments and their associations with days of the week, months, seasons and lunar cycles we did not analyze the data on ward level. However, the mentioned issues have been addressed in another manuscript about circumstances and characteristics of patient falls, focusing both clinical departments and time (e.g. days of the week).

Major Compulsory Revision (Reviewer NH)

-None

Minor essential revision (Reviewer NH)

-None

Discretionary revisions (Reviewer NH)

The evidence of beliefs of health care professionals regarding falls and phase of the full moon has been stated on page 3 (Background), line 8.