Author's response to reviews

Title: Nurses' perceptions and experiences of communication in the operating theatre: a focus group interview

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Author's response to reviews:

I have made several attempts to contact you by email and apparently none have succeeded.

The message below was first sent on 20th September
Dear Editors

Delighted to receive such a prompt response to the submitted manuscript.

The reviewers comments are very helpful. Prior to resubmitting I am seeking further advice.

Reviewer 2 (ST) does not make reference to the inclusion of the other focus group or observation data.

Reviewer 1 (PL) seems insistent that this is crucial to merit publication.

We have sent the document to your journal because its primary focus is nursing. If we include the other data (which is very extensive) from both the focus groups and the observations then we will submit to another journal which has a broader base. We considered this nursing focus group data sufficiently rich to stand alone and fill a gap in the nursing literature. Each focus group (of anaesthetists and surgeons) was conducted independently although the same questions were asked of each. As outlined in the literature review, there are many descriptive and journalistic publications in nursing literature. This paper creates a base for theory building.

All the other comments - from both reviewers were very helpful and we are prepared to respond to each. However, we are not prepared to extend the data base as requested by Reviewer 1.

Under these circumstances, would it be appropriate to seek feedback from an additional reviewer?

Thanks

Debra Nestel