Author's response to reviews

Title: Knowledge of pressure ulcer prevention: A cross-sectional and comparative study among nurses

Authors:

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Version: 2 Date: 6 February 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Saltman,

Please find appended the revised manuscript entitled: “Knowledge of pressure ulcer prevention: a cross-sectional and comparative study among nurses” which I am submitting for publication at the BMC Nursing. Authors of the manuscript are Mirjam A. Hulsenboom, Gerrie J.J.W. Bours and Ruud J.G. Halfens.

Based on reviewers’ comments, following revisions are made:

Reviewer M. Clark
1. No data is presented to substantiate the claim that non NPS nurses did not participate in the NPS.
   The issue of misclassification is addressed in the discussion of the manuscript.

2. Authors need to describe if participating nurses were working in the hospital at the time of the survey and if they were active in the NPS.
   These comments are considered and additional information is given to answer these questions.

3. It may be more appropriate to restrict the article to the comparison between 1991 and 2003.
   Arguments to not restrict the article to the comparison between 1991 and 2003 are stressed in the article.

4. The authors should provide reasons why the 128 forms were excluded for analysis.
   Reasons why 128 forms were excluded are mentioned in the manuscript.

5. Inclusion criteria ‘registered nurses’ versus ‘qualified nurses’
   The reviewers comment is correct and revisions are made.

Reviewer Z. Moore
1. Use of the word hardly
   Recommended change in abstract is made

2. What do we mean by ‘increased to consult nurse specialist’
   ‘Increased to consult nurse specialist’ is changed in: ‘increased involvement of nurse specialists for pressure ulcers’
Reviewer B. Pieper

1. *The name of the guideline should be capitalized*

Revised

2. *Items listed in the table are different from items in the US guidelines and some are not known or not used*

We are aware of the little differences in items between the Dutch guideline and the US guideline (NPUAP). The purpose of the study is to identify nurses’ knowledge of useful and not useful preventive measures mentioned in the 2002 Guideline on Pressure Ulcers. Because not useful measures as ‘water bed’, ‘cradle’ and ‘sheep skin’ are mentioned in this guideline, they are included in our questionnaire.

To prevent uncleanness, ‘smearing the skin...’ is changed. Consulting paramedics is changed into ‘reactivation and mobilisation by paramedics’.

I hope you will consider the revised manuscript for publication. If necessary, we are willing to give any further explanation of the revisions.

Yours sincerely,

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