Author's response to reviews

Title: Patients' functioning as predictor of nursing workload in acute hospital units providing rehabilitation care: a multi-centre cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editors of BMC Health Services Research, dear editorial production team,

Enclosed you find a detailed description of all changes made in the manuscript. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Sincerely,

Martin Mueller
Formatting changes to be made:
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Major revisions (we require the author to make these changes)

References 1, 24 and 25: please provide functioning web links to the web sites.

We updated the links for references 1, 24 and 25.

Minor revisions (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)

Figures: It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here:
http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures

We edited the layout of the figures according your figure guide.

Typography: Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions.

We again contacted a English native speaker to correct typography and phrasing. We listed all editings:

Background, 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence:
We rephrased this sentence:
‘Various criteria are available to determine whether the scale and composition of nurse staffing are adequate to meeting the needs of patients and staff.’

Methods/ Variables/ Nursing workload
sentences 1&2
We rephrased these sentences:
Nursing workload was documented using an instrument for the documentation of nursing activities known as LEP (“Leistungserfassung in der Pflege”). LEP was developed in Switzerland as a nursing workload classification for documenting daily nursing activities, and has come to be widely used in German-speaking countries because of the simplicity of its application to clinical practice.

Paragraph 2:
We deleted ‘is’ form the sentence ‘The goal of this is preliminary analysis was to find the best model’

**Methods/ Variables/ ICF Core Sets, Sentence 4**

We replaced ‘prototypic’ with ‘prototypical’

**Methods/ Variables/ Barthel Index**

2*nd* sentence:

We added ‘the’ in front of ‘assessment’.

5*th* sentence:

We replaced ‘which’ with ‘that’

**Discussion, 1*st* sentence:**

We rephrased the sentence: ‘The aim of the current study was to examine the factors leading to variation in the nursing workload in the acute hospital setting in order to provide a basis for better management decision-making.’

**Discussion/ Comparison of ICF-Models with Barthel Index Models:**

We replaced ‘giving’ with ‘that give’ in the sentence ‘Our procedures identified the minimal subset of categories giving the best prediction of nursing workload.’

**Conclusion**

We rephrased paragraph 2:

‘Incorporating ICF Core Set-based data in nursing management decisions, particularly staffing decisions, may be beneficial. Considering patients functioning based on specific categories of the ICF may be an option for guiding staffing decisions at the unit-level as well as estimating full-time equivalents more precisely at the hospital-level. The result of our study may be extended to identify the predictors relevant for all health professionals involved in acute patient care. As such, this study represents the first step towards establishing a general approach enabling the entire interdisciplinary team to plan the patient-specific workload in a common language.’