Author's response to reviews

Title: Safety checklists for use by medical care teams in acute hospital settings

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to reviewer feedback for systematic review submitted to BMC HSR:

Title: Systematic review of safety checklists for use by medical care teams in acute hospital settings – limited evidence pertaining to their effectiveness.

Authors: Henry Ko, Tari Turner, Monica Finnigan.

Dear BMC HSR Editorial Office,

Please find our response and changes to our systematic review submitted to your journal. All changes have been tracked within the article. We have also made some discretionary changes within sentences to help make sentences clearer in meaning. We explain our changes made below:

Reviewer: Christian Wulff.

Our changes:

Abstract: We have made minor essential revisions to the abstract in all the sections (especially for the methods and results section) according to the request of CW. CW’s comments were instructive and useful. We have also made all the requested discretionary revisions as requested by CW.

Background: We have made the minor essential revisions as requested by CW, as well as the discretionary revisions.

Methods: We have made all the major compulsory revisions as suggested by CW. Please note that some changes are not the ones as requested by CW due consideration and integration of the other reviewers’ feedback as well. However, we have left the “protocol registration” section as is because systematic reviews require this section to be stated upfront in the methods section (CW major compulsory revision #1). All minor essential revisions have also been completed, however they have also integrated some of the other reviewers’ feedback into them.

Discussion: We have made all the minor essential revisions requested as well as the discretionary revisions.

We thank CW for providing clear and instructive feedback.

Reviewer: Doug Elliot.

Our changes:

Minor essential revisions: We have added wording as suggested by DE.
Discretionary revisions: We have done the appropriate revisions as suggested by DE for most suggestions. However we have left percentages as is. DE suggested changing “97% to 100%” to “97-100%”, however we feel that the “-“ can be misinterpreted as a minus sign.

We thank DE for his useful and instructive feedback.

Reviewer: Karena Hewson.

Our changes:

Major compulsory revisions:

Abstract: We have made the revisions as per KW suggestions, however some changes are integrated with the other reviewer’s suggestions as well, so the original sections may not be there or have changed in context or content.

Discussion: We have made the suggested change.

Title: We have made the suggested change.

Method: We have made the suggested changes. For suggestions #4, #8, #9, and #10 we have elaborated on some key points further to the reviewer’s suggestions, however we feel that a fuller explanation further than what we have provided would likely much too length to this article.

References: We have made changes as suggested by KW and updated the referencing.

Discretionary revisions:

Methods: We have made the changes as suggested by KW.

Results: We have made the changes as suggested by KW.

Discussion: We have made the changes as suggested by KW, and elaborated on specific sections as requested by KW.

We thank KW for her thorough, instructive, and useful feedback on our article.

We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and effort in providing feedback on our systematic review, and in improving the content of it. We thank the BMC HSR editorial office for their timely coordination of the review process.

Kind Regards,

Dr Henry Ko.