Author's response to reviews

Title: Handover Patterns: An Observational Study of Critical Care Physicians

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Health Services Research editors,

Re: Manuscript entitled: Handover Patterns: an Observational Study of Critical Care Physicians

Corresponding Author: Roy Ilan
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I am pleased to submit the enclosed manuscript for review by Health Services Research.

This manuscript represents the first part of a work in progress aiming to provide a rich description of handover communication of critical care physicians.

Handover situations have been recognized as important sources of communication failure and adverse events in healthcare. The ongoing complex care and the routine reliance on sharing of information in the intensive care unit make it a natural environment for studying handovers.

In the attached manuscript we describe how handovers of attending physicians in an academic ICU may seem “disorganized”. This recognition may be the first step towards a better understanding of communication approaches of experts.

I am confident that Health Services Research readers will find this study interesting and thought provoking. Its content and messages align nicely with the journal’s scope.

I hope you will enjoy the reading and I will look forward to your review.

Sincerely,

Roy Ilan, on behalf of the Kingston Handover Study Group