Reviewer's report

Title: Workplace violence against physician and nurses in Palestinians public hospitals: A retrospective cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 29 October 2012

Reviewer: Jeanne Hewitt

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon this manuscript. Overall, the paper was conceptually sound, well-organized and written, and addresses a very important public health issue.

There are a couple of things that could strengthen the writing, I believe. This is a cross-sectional design. (Retrospective is not informative here.)

The process for sampling hospitals and respondents is not clearly written. A simple diagram may be helpful. The description of 'a stratified proportional random sample' does not seem to fit what was reported.

The definition of violence incidents that were used by the authors might be best placed after the first sentence under Study Instrument. It would also be helpful to have an example of how 'threats' were differentiated from 'verbal' (Table 2).

Lastly, the discussion is quite good, but it would be helpful if the suggested interventions were described more fully, and put into the context of the 'culture' i.e., in the West Bank, as well as public hospitals, there. For example, what kind of policies have been reported in other studies and what would the authors recommend for public hospitals in the West Bank? Could elements of the physical environment (e.g., emergency departments) be modified? (e.g., some colors are more soothing than others). So, a little more depth of discussion would set the stage for possible interventions in the future, as well as directions for further study.