Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical risk management in mental health: a systematic overview of main risks and related management practices

Authors:

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Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
October 4th, 2012

Ethical statement added in Manuscript: Briner, M. & Manser, T. – Clinical risk management in mental health: a systematic overview of main risks and related management practices

Dear Editors,

This letter is related to the proposed change in the manuscript “Clinical risk management in mental health: a systematic overview of main risks and related management practices”.

As needed we included the statement about the ethical accountability in the Methods section at the end of page 4 to page 5.

This was an interview study with persons responsible for CRM in psychiatric hospitals. Participation was voluntary and did not affect respondents physically or mentally. All responses were de-identified. The research did not include any patients and is in line with the WMA Declaration of Helsinki - Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects. Such research does not require ethics approval in Switzerland, as mere surveys in the sense of opinion surveys or interviews are not counted as research on humans (see http://www.vpf.ethz.ch/about/commissions/EK).

We hope that our manuscript is now ready for review. If any changes are needed, do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Briner, corresponding author

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September 26th, 2012

Manuscript: Briner, M. & Manser, T. – Clinical risk management in mental health: a systematic overview of main risks and related management practices

Dear Editors,

This letter is related to the submission of the manuscript entitled “Clinical risk management in mental health: a systematic overview of main risks and related management practices”.

We believe that this article is relevant to the readers of BMC Health Services Research as it presents, for the first time, a systematic overview of the most important clinical risks in mental health care and related management practices. Clinical risk management (CRM) aims at reducing or eliminating harm to patients. It is an evolving, but rather heterogeneous field. Especially in mental health care, little research and knowledge is available about patient safety and CRM. Our article uses a sound methodological approach, contributes to the understanding of patient safety, and raises awareness for CRM in mental health. The mental health specific overview of central risks and related management practices offers a valuable basis for CRM development in mental health and an addition to CRM in general, as a scientific understanding of CRM in mental health care is indispensable for building safer health systems and for improving patient safety.

Both authors have significantly contributed to the manuscript and agree with its submission to BMC Health Services Research.

None of the content has been disseminated to a journal's audience prior to this submission and the manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere.

We hope that you consider this manuscript for review and ultimately publication in BMC Health Services Research and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Briner, corresponding author

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