Author's response to reviews

Title: Patient safety culture in a Large Teaching Hospital in Riyadh: Baseline Assessment, Comparative Analysis and Opportunities for Improvement

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: Ms. Armee Valencia  
BioMed Central – Health Service Research

From: Fadi El-Jardali, MPH, PhD  
American University of Beirut

Subject: Second response to reviewer comments for the manuscript “Patient safety culture in a Large Teaching Hospital in Riyadh: Baseline Assessment, Benchmarking and Opportunities for Improvement”

Dear Ms. Armee Valencia,

Thank you for providing us with the second round of reviewer comments. We have addressed the comments raised below and provide a point-by-point description of the changes made to the manuscript.

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Reviewer: Said Bodur

Comment 1:
I do not think the table 7 has a contribution to this article

Response 1:
Thank you for raising this issue again. We looked into this comment and given that we have two different types of outcome variables, this necessitates addressing them differently in our analysis. We highlighted this issue in the data analysis section (see page 7). We would also like to point out that another published study has addressed this issue similarly. Kindly refer to:
Reviewer: Christine Hartmann

Comment 1:
The authors have made an excellent revision and responded thoughtfully and thoroughly to the reviewer comments. I have only two remaining comments. I would suggest that Response 6 to my Comment 6 (this is also the same as Response 6 to Dr. Peter Groenewegen) should be incorporated into the manuscript.

Response 1:
Thank you for your comment. This was integrated on page 18 to 19 of the revised manuscript.

Comment 2:
Also, I note that the Editor’s request to have information about IRB approval was not incorporated into the text, although the Editor requested it be done.

Response 2:
Thank you. We made the necessary reference in the ethical consideration section. The protocol for the original study was approved by the American University of Beirut Internal Review Board (protocol number FHS.FE.03). No additional local ethical review was required as advised by hospital administration.

Comment 3:
In terms of language, I suggest the Objectives be changed to past tense to match the rest of the article.

Response 3:
Thank you for pointing this error out. Changes were made to the abstract (page 2) and the objectives section on page 5.
Reviewer: Peter Groenewegen

Comment 1:
The manuscript still reports about patient safety culture in one hospital. Therefore I still think it is interesting for the management of this hospital. However, it is not interesting for an international audience of health services researchers.

Response 1:
Thank you for the comment. We would like to point out that the selected facility is a major teaching health provider in KSA and is composed of two main sites with different sizes. We also compared the two facilities in the regression analysis.
Many health systems in developing countries in the East Mediterranean region and elsewhere now require that hospitals frequently assess and report on their patient safety culture. Publishing key results from hospitals is critical to raise awareness among providers and stakeholders, promote patient safety practices, enhance the learning culture, and increase the knowledge base since individual hospitals rarely publish the findings of such an assessment of patient safety culture. Publishing results from this major study would also allow for comparisons across facilities within KSA and across other countries in the region, particularly when facilities use the same measurement tool.

Response to Editorial Comments

Comment 1:
Please provide the full name of the local ethics committee that approved the protocol in the 'Methods' section of the manuscript.

Response 1:
Thank you. We made the necessary reference in the ethical consideration section
The protocol for the original study was approved by the American University of Beirut Internal Review Board (protocol number FHS.FE.03). No additional local ethical review was required as advised by hospital administration.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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