Author's response to reviews

Title: Decision-Making Factors Affecting Different Family Members Regarding the Placement of Relatives in Long-Term Care Facilities

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor:

On behalf of all authors, I appreciate the time and effort of the editor and reviewers in critiquing our work (Manuscript ID: 34218318610135962). Attached is a point-to-point response to Reviewers’ comments. We re-submit this manuscript for re-consideration for publication in BMC Health Services Research. We should like to thank the referees for their helpful comments and hope that we have now produced a more balance and better account of our work.

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Referee 1:

I acknowledge the improvements the authors made on the manuscript. Although the original questionnaire for this study was in Chinese, I think providing an English translation of the questionnaire as an attached file upon publication would significantly increase the interest of this paper for the audience. There are no page numbers in the manuscript which is rare and unhelpful. The results section presents the results of table 2 on the OVERALS analyses and I still think that this part could be shortened and summarized. Maybe a graph on the concept behind the OVERALS analyses would help the reader unfamiliar with this technique. I do not have any further comments.

1. Response: This questionnaire has been translated and attached as an appendix for reference.

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Appendix Questionnaire

Long-Term Care Resident’s Family Member’s Opinions on Choosing LTC Facilities

(□) Family member's demographic characteristics

1. Gender: □1.Male □2.Female

2. Age:
□1.Less than 40 years □2.41-50 years
□3.51-60 years □4.More than 61 years

3. What is your educational level?
□1.Below elementary school □2.Junior high school
□3.Senior high school □4.College and above
4. What is your marital status?

☐ 1. No spouse       ☐ 2. Married
☐ 3. Widowed        ☐ 4. Separated / divorced

5. What is your self-perceived financial status?

☐ 1. Good       ☐ 2. Ordinary
☐ 3. Poor       ☐ 4. Very poor

6. What is your relationship with the resident in the LTC facility?

☐ 1. Spouse  ☐ 2. Children
☐ 3. Grandchildren  ☐ 4. Relative

(enschaft) Current Status of Resident Living in LTC facility

7. What is the LTC facility type that your family member lives in?

☐ 1. Nursing Home ☐ 2. Senior Citizen Welfare Institution

8. How many beds are there in the LTC facility where your family member lives?

☐ 1. Fewer than 49 beds ☐ 2. 50-99 beds ☐ 3. More than 100 beds

9. How long has your family member lived in the LTC facility?

☐ 1. Less than 1 year ☐ 2. 1-2 years
☐ 3. 2-3 years ☐ 4. More than 4 years

10. Who pays for the expense of the LTC facility?

10.1 Paid by the resident ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes
10.2 Paid by the spouse ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes
10.3 Paid by the children ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes
10.4 Paid by a relative ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes
10.5 Paid by the government ☐ 1. No ☐ 2. Yes

11. How did family members learn about the LTC facility?
1. Advertising of the LTC facility □ 2. Referred by friends and relatives □
3. Referred by hospital-related personnel □ 4. LTC facility is close to home □
5. Referred by governmental units □ 6. Other □

12. Was the LTC facility chosen because of its proximity to home?
□ 1. No □ 2. Yes

13. Was the LTC facility chosen because of the convenience for family members to visit the resident?
□ 1. No □ 2. Yes

14. Was the LTC facility chosen because of its service quality?
□ 1. No □ 2. Yes

15. Was the LTC facility chosen because of its medical treatment convenience?
□ 1. No □ 2. Yes

(보고) Family member’s experiences in contact with the LTC facilities

16. Why did you contact the LTC facility?
□ 1. Chose an LTC facility for family □ 2. Needed in one’s own work
□ 3. Relatives and friends engaged in LTC-related field □ 4. Other

17. What’s your experience in visiting the LTC facilities?
□ 1. Had never visited LTC facilities □ 2. Had visited 1 LTC facilities
□ 3. Had visited fewer than 3 LTC facilities □ 4. Had visited at least 4 LTC facilities

18. What type of LTC facilities did you visit?
18.1 Visited nursing homes □ 1. No □ 2. Yes
18.2 Visited Senior Citizen Welfare Institutions □ 1. No □ 2. Yes
18.3 Visited community care facility □ 1. No □ 2. Yes

19. Do you pay much attention to the cleanliness of LTC facilities?
20. Do you pay much attention to the lighting in the rooms of the LTC facilities?
   □ 1. No  □ 2. Yes

21. Do you pay much attention to the ventilation of the LTC facilities?
   □ 1. No  □ 2. Yes

22. Do you pay much attention to the safety of the LTC facilities?
   □ 1. No  □ 2. Yes

2. Response: We highly value reviewers’ comments on providing the description of OVERALS analysis method that is comprehensible to readers. The diagrams of 4 quadrants are shown, respectively, to enable the readers to better understand the variables in each quadrant. It is hoped that such presentation can help readers better understand the content.

Page 9 line 17 - Page 11 line 11:

Figures 1 to 4 show the centroid plots by the variables. The positions of the projected centroids determined the interpretation of the direction of the variables in the four quadrants.

Figure 1 shows that the family members in Quadrant I were mainly spouses (v6.1) aged 51 and above (v2.3 and v2.4) with an educational level of elementary school (v3.1). Their family members lived in SCWIs (v7.2) with fewer than 99 beds (v8.1 and v8.2) for more than 4 years (v9.4). Payments for the LTC facilities were made by spouses (v11.2) and the government (v14.2). They learned of the LTC facilities through introduction by hospital-related personnel (v15.3) and proximity to home (v15.4). They contacted LTC facilities because they intended to help their families choose LTC facilities (v20.1); however, they had never visited LTC facilities (v21.1).
The family members in this quadrant attached importance to the lighting of the room when choosing an LTC facility (v26.2).

Figure 2 shows that the family members in Quadrant II were mainly the unmarried sons of residents (v1.1 and v4.1); their self-perceived financial status was “ordinary” (v5.2). Their family members had lived in LTC facilities for less than three years (v9.3). Payments for the LTC facilities were made by the children (v12.2). They learned of the LTC facilities through relatives, friends, and propaganda from the LTC facilities (v15.1 and v15.2). They chose LTC facilities based on the convenience of medical treatment (v19.2). They attached importance to ventilation when choosing an LTC facility (v27.2).

Figure 3 shows that the family members in Quadrant III were mainly grandchildren aged 50 and under (v2.1, v2.2, and v6.3), with educational levels of high school, college, and above (v3.3 and v3.4); their self-perceived financial status was “good” (v5.1). Their families had lived in NHs (v7.1) with at least 100 beds (v8.3) for less than 1 year (v9.1). Payments for the facilities were made by the residents themselves (v10.2). The family members chose the LTC facilities based on their proximity to home, visiting convenience, and quality (v16.2, v17.2, and v18.2). Their opportunities for contacting LTC facilities came through relatives and friends engaged in LTC-related fields (v20.3). These family members had visited at least one LTC facility, including NHs, SCWIs, and community care facilities (v21.2, v21.3, v21.4, v22.2, v22.3, and v24.2). They attached importance to environmental cleanliness when choosing an LTC facility (v25.2).

Figure 4 shows that the family members in Quadrant IV were mainly grandchildren aged 50 and under (v2.1, v2.2, and v6.3), the family members were female relatives (v1.2 and v6.4). Their educational level was junior high school (v3.2), their marital status was widowed or divorced (v4.3 and v4.4), and their self-perceived
financial status was poor (v5.3 and v5.4). Their families had lived in LTC facilities for less than two years (v9.2). Payments were made by relatives (v13.2). The family members learned of the LTC facilities through introduction by government units (v15.5). They contacted the LTC facilities because of their work needs and other reasons (v20.2). They attached importance to safety when choosing an LTC facility (v28.2).
Figure 1. Centroid plots: Quadrant I
Had visited community care facility.

Family members learn from other of the LTC facilities.

Figure 3. Centroid plots: Quadrant II

Relatives and friends engaged in LTC-related field.
Education level: Junior high school

Female
  * Safety of the LTC facility
  * Self-perceived financial status was poor

* Lived in LTC facility: 1-2 years

* Separated/Divorced
  * Not paid by children

* Widowed
  * Self-perceived financial status was very poor
  * Introduction from governmental units

* Needs in one's own work
  * Relative

* Paid by Relative

Other reason for contact with the LTC facility

Figure 4. Centroid plots: Quadrant IV