Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of changed management policies on operating room performance and the distribution of patient categories

Authors:

Birgithe E. Sandbaek (birgithe.e.sandbek@himolde.no)
Berit I. Helgheim (Berit.I.Helgheim@hiMolde.no)
Odd I. Larsen (Odd.Larsen@hiMolde.no)
Sigurd Fasting (Sigurd.Fasting@stolav.no)

Version: 2
Date: 30 October 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Armee Valencia,

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript “Impact of changed management policies on operating room performance and the distribution of patient categories”.

On the next page are our point-by-point responses to your comments. We hope that the revisions will be sufficient to make the manuscript suitable for the peer review process.

Kind regards,

Birgithe Sandbaek, MD/PhD fellow in Operations Management/Logistics
Ph: +47 41146968
birgithe.e.sandbek@himolde.no
Molde University College, Specialized University in Logistics, Norway
1. The formatting of the manuscript.

Response: The ends of Authors’ affiliations have been removed. All sub-headings referring to tables and figures in the text have been removed. The reminding sub-headings that are not in accordance with the template have been replaced by bold text. Figures 3, 4 and 5 have been resized to the width of 1200 pixels.

2. Please can you clarify in the ‘Methods section of your manuscript if the study was reviewed by an ethics committee who waived the need for approval and also provide the specific name of the committee. Please can you also clarify the source of the data and who gave permission for the data to be used in this study.

Response:
The first sentence in the Methods section under the “The setting” has been replaced by the following sentence: “St Olavs Hospital is a publicly financed tertiary referral hospital that provides elective and non-elective surgery.”

The following sentences have been added in the Methods section under “The data”: “This paper is part of a research project between Molde University College and St Olav University Hospital, Trondheim. Permission to use the data was granted by the Hospitals’ steering group for acute surgery. The data is extracted from routine data recordings from every surgical procedure in the time period. The project was reviewed by the regional committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics, REC Central, who waived the need for approval.

The sub-heading “Research Ethics” and the text below have been deleted.

3. If the data is publicly available please state this in the manuscript and provide a link or reference to the data in your manuscript.

Response: No change, the data is not publicly available