Author's response to reviews

Title: Implementation of the quality management system in Lithuanian palliative care hospitals

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Madam/ Sir,

We would like to thank you one more time for taking your time to review our article for a second time and providing us further critical comments, which have assisted to the improvement of the overall quality of the paper.

We have revised the article, and accordingly incorporated changes as to your advice in the present revised version. We wish to respond to each reviewer’s comments:

**Response to Mr Lember’s report,**

To make it easier for international readers to understand the terms “support treatment hospitals” and “nursing hospitals”, definitions were included in the Background section.

The paper was edited by a professor of the English language from the UK.

**Response to Ms Wagner’s report,**

We would like to thank the reviewer for providing us reference to prior research on QMS and comments on the legislative QMS situation in the Netherlands. Following the above comments, the Dutch QMS legislative situation was accordingly re-described in the Background section. A discussion of the results of a QMS research in the Netherlands, Hungary, and Finland is provided in the Discussion section.

**Response to Ms Bookbinder’s report,**

1. The paper was edited by a professor of the English language from the UK.
2. Terms implying harder evidence were removed.
3. Research results section has been rewritten and supplemented following the advice of an expert of Statistics and research Methodology and includes the following statistics: frequencies, rank order means, Spearman’s correlation ratios, and factor analysis.
4. Cronbach’s alpha was used to test the questionnaire reliability only for items measured on the seven-point Likert scale. To avoid readers’ misunderstanding, a respective explanation has been added in the Methods section, paragraph on Questionnaire reliability.

We hope the above corrections will meet the reviewers’ expectations.

Sincerely

Ilona Buciuniene, Prof. Dr.