Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of work life among primary healthcare nurses in the Jazan region, Saudi Arabia: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2011

Reviewer: Elizabeth Patterson

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision
2nd last sentence - these means (3.85 vs 3.79 for work life - home life etc are inconsistent with the means reported earlier in the paragraph (26.45 and 28.16 etc)

2. Discussion - work context - end of 2nd paragraph "In this study, one nurse commented..." There was no mention in the methods or findings of a qualitative component to this study. How was this comment obtained? Did the survey provide space for written comments? if so this should be reported and the comments analysed.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Background - paragraph 4 line 14 needs to include possible ranges with each of the means

2. Background - paragraph 6 beginning "A review of literature..." would be helpful to describe what a PHC centre is and what services are provided because in the findings it is stated that the PHC nurses worked in male wards and female wards which sounds like a hospital setting or an aged care residential setting.

3. Methods - instrument - helpful to name all 6 points of the Likert scale rather than just 1 and 6.

4. Results - it is repetitious to provide both text and table presentations of findings for each subscale; it would be better to just provide a summary textual analysis of each subscale, with comment about the most agreeable or disagreeable items or the order of agreement with the items. it would also help the reader to interpret the results if the items in each subscale of Table 3 were sorted in % order.

5. Discussion - would be better to separate out the recommendations from the discussion and provide a separate section headed recommendations.

6. Discussion - Work context dimension. Add the word 'perceived' to reported findings - they are not objective observations but subjective perceptions of the respondents.

Minor issues not for publication
Editorial corrections:

Background - paragraph 4 beginning "Brooks et al [10]...line 4 should read "...and again 18 months later..."

Last sentence of Background - "...which is accompanied by nurse shortages"

4th line under Instrument - " 42 items divided four subscale:"

6th line under Instrument - "... between the nurse's work and home life."

6th line under Data collection analysis - "... indication of the participant's consent..."

Heading "Data collection analysis" should be data collection and analysis

Discussion - work design dimension 1st sentence should read "In keeping with global trends..."

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'