Author's response to reviews

Title: Does type of hospital ownership influence physicians' daily work schedules? An observational real-time study in German hospital departments

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the evaluation of our manuscript. We were pleased to read the helpful comments of the referees and prepared a revised version according to the suggestions. Please see the detailed point by point reply.

The authors warrant that the article is original, does not infringe upon any copyright or other proprietary right of any third party, is not under consideration by another journal, and has not been previously published. The authors confirm that they have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript. There are no competing financial interests. We hope that you will find the manuscript suitable for publication in "Human Resources for Health".

For the authors - yours sincerely,

Stefanie Mache

Point-by-point reply

Reviewer 1 Comments:

1. An indication of table 2 is missed in the text

Reply: We added an indication of table 2 in the text (please see methods section).

2. The number of patients treated per day should be added to table 4

Reply: Since table 4 includes data based on time values, we decided not to include the number of patients per day.

3. An explanation for the last 3 lines in table 4 is not given in the text. If these lines stay in the table, CI should replace the SD values…

Reply: We mentioned the task categories in the result section, replaced SD values in table 4 and added CI values.
4. The difference between the length of a workday with respect to the number of treated patients…

Reply: We added further information concerning this advice. We also considered the influence of hospital organization and administrative duties on our results (please see discussion section.)

Reviewer 2 Comments:

1. Concerning the methodology it would be helpful to know, where the hospitals were located, I guess it was Berlin. However, the authors should give information about the sample size (Why these 12 hospitals)…

Reply: We added this information in the manuscript (please see methods section)

2. Table 1 is somewhat difficult to understand. What do the mean values represent? Hospital beds in total or is there an index? Please specify for the reader. Table 2 is not mentioned in the text…

Reply: We explained table 1 and mentioned table 2 in the manuscript. Table 1 refers to characteristics of hospital departments included in this study. It does not refer to characteristics of the whole hospital (please see methods section).
We deleted the percentage values in table 2.

3. Discussion should include data from former studies conducted by the “Statistisches Bundesamt”…

Reply: We analyzed the citation and discussed relevant aspects in the manuscript (please see discussion section)

4. Quality aspects…have been proven as one main key to patient satisfaction and patient safety…

Reply: Quality aspects were discussed more precisely. We mentioned the influence of workload and communication on patient satisfaction and patient safety (please see discussion section).