Reviewer's report

Title: A modest start, but a steady rise in research use. A longitudinal study of nurses during the first five years in professional life.

Version: 2 Date: 21 November 2011

Reviewer: Melinda Tinkle

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Methods Section- clarification of #s of subjects in tables and figures.
The authors have clarified the confusion across Table 1 and Figure 1 in terms of subject numbers and also added more detail about subject attrition which is also helpful.

2. Strengthen description of research instrumentation
The authors provided a new table that describes the concept of instrumental research. While this improves the understanding of context, I continue to believe that including the other two dimensions of conceptual and persuasive research use in this table would strengthen the paper.

3. Description of the psychometric properties of the items
The authors have included a bit more detail about the reliability/validity of the research use measures.

4. Writing style
Some changes have been made that have improved the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions:

All of the minor revisions that I had some concerns about have been adequately addressed, including clarifications needed primarily in the background section and the logic/flow in the discussion section. The revised paper is much improved overall and I recommend acceptance of the paper.