Author’s response to reviews

Title: Assessment of patient safety culture in primary health care in Muscat, Oman: A questionnaire-based survey

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Dear Editor BMC Family Practice,

FAMP-D-18-00462R1, Assessment of patient safety culture in primary health care in Muscat, Oman: A questionnaire-based survey.

Thank you for sending this manuscript for review. The reviewers’ comments have been very useful, and we have revised the manuscript accordingly. Our responses to the reviewers’ comments are detailed below and have been addressed in the manuscript.

1. You used HOSOPSC, which is developed for hospitals' settings. You adjusted it for primary care settings. Why not use MOSOPSC, which is originally designed for primary care? You should explain this in discussion as this could have significant implications on the results as safety culture at primary care must be measured by tools designed for primary care.

The study protocol for this study was approved by the Research and Ethical Review and Approval Committee at the Centre of Research and Studies in the Ministry of Health, Oman before the Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety Culture (MOSOPSC) tool was available for use (June 2016). It had also only been used in primary care the Portuguese Primary Healthcare. I agree that using this version would have been useful however it seemed more important to the research team to use a tool which had previously been used in the Gulf region. The HSOPSC had previously been used in both hospital and primary care settings. We acknowledge that this might be a limitation and the following sentence has been added to the discussion section to clarify this on page 15 line 4-7 as follows:
“Another possible limitation is that the Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety Culture (MOSOPSC) tool which was designed for use in primary care and used in the Portuguese Primary Healthcare [30] could have been used however the aim was to use a tool which had previously been used in the Gulf region”

2. You stated that your sample was representative for the population studied. Please, add the calculations that will prove that 10% of the population is representative and presents a satisfactory power of the study.

The population of the survey was health care professionals in primary health care in the Muscat governorate (N=1,984). The total number of health care professionals working in primary health care in Muscat included in the study (N=1,164) this population reflects the 22 out of 28 health centers which were included in the study. The 22 out of 28 healthcare centers were selected on the basis of services which includes general practice, nursing care and pharmacy these services are functional 7 times a week in addition to services such as laboratory, X ray services and dentistry care provided 5 days a week excluding weekends. we aimed to survey a representative sample of 10% of the total from each occupational category. From each center we sampled the following: Nurses (n=3), Physicians (n=2), Radiographers (n=1), Laboratory technicians (n=1), Dentists (n=1) and Pharmacists (n=1) (9 in total from each center). Thus, the sample size for this study was (9 x 22 = 198) health professionals from the selected primary care centers. This paragraph is added on page 9 line 8 to 18 in the manuscript