Author’s response to reviews

Title: KEY COMPONENTS OF THE DELIRIUM SYNDROME AND MORTALITY: GREATER IMPACT OF ACUTE CHANGE AND DISORGANISED THINKING IN A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

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Version: 1 Date: 04 Oct 2017

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Thank you for your comments, we have addressed them as follows:

Comment 1. We have noted that this study was “an exploratory analysis of a prospective cohort of older participants with acute medical illness admitted into hospital between June and December 2007”. Please can you clarify whether your study was a retrospective analysis of data produced by the original study (reference 21), or whether your study prospectively analysed the original participants.

Response: we have clarified this in the text lines 62-63

Comment: If your study was prospective, please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your manuscript. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

Response: this detail has been added see lines 67-74

Please also clearly state who provided consent, were the participants cognitively aware enough to consent for themselves, or did proxies consent on their behalf?
Comment 2. Please include a reference for the ‘CAM’ test.
Response: added as reference 22

Comment 3. Please change the Introduction heading to Background.
Response: this has been amended

Comment 4. At this stage, we ask that you submit a clean version of your manuscript and do not include track changes or highlighting
Response: Thank you we will do this