**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Risk Factors of Health Care-Associated Infection in Elderly Patients: A Retrospective Cohort Study Performed at a Tertiary Hospital in China

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Responds to Editor Comments

1. While assessing your manuscript in-house, we found several instances where the text displayed similarities to text found in other previously published sources. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the sections listed below to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate:

   **Methods, lines 94-102:**


   **Methods, lines 108-115:**


Answer: I’m sorry about the use of text from previously published work. But as you said I just want to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications because the authors of one of the published articles above are the development team about the RT-NISS which we used and the first author of the other is me myself. I have reformulated the sections listed above to avoid the overlap between my manuscript and other sources in the revised manuscript. (Method section, line95-103, line108-116, page 5-6)

2. In the Authors' contributions section, please refer to all authors by their initials rather than full names. Please also include a statement in this section clearly indicating that all authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Answer: I have revised the authors’ names to their initials and included a statement in this section clearly indicating that all authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript. (Authors' contributions in Declarations section, line222-226, page 11)

3. In your Funding section, please also state the role of the funding body in the design of the study; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; and in writing the manuscript.

Answer: The funding bodies had no role in the design of the study; collection, analysis, interpretation of data; and in writing the manuscript. (Funding in Declarations section, line228-232, page 11)

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