Author’s response to reviews

Title: Satisfaction of family members with inpatient psychiatric care and its correlates: a national survey in China

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Reviewer reports:
Tinakon Wongpakaran (Reviewer 1): The authors have satisfactorily answered all of my comments and concern. However, please first) add in stat section regarding applying 'multilevel regression' and briefly describe how the analysis, as well as revising the subtitle 3.4 on line 271 Second) I am not sure it is multilevel multivariate "logistic" regression as the outcome was total satisfaction score which was continuous rather than binary outcome (Table 4), hence, It could be mixed-effect, linear model?? Please check it out.

Response: The reviewer raised two important and excellent points. (1) We have added the multilevel regression information in the statistics section, as well as additional references. Please see P8, Line 212-218 (revised version, hereafter). Meanwhile, we have also revised the subtitle on Page 11, line 294, and the subtitle of Table 4. (2) Although the total satisfaction score was a continuous variable, we have found that they could not meet the requirements of the linear model, which indicates that there is a linear relationship between independent variables and dependent variables, even after we tried to use
the transformation of the variables. Therefore, a logistic regression model was used, in which we categorized the continuous variable into a binary one. We now have described the transformation methods in the Method section and Results section. With regard to the mixed-effect model, we have now conducted the model competition between the mixed-effect model and fixed-effect model in STATA, which showed that the mixed-effect model was no better than the fixed one. Therefore the model we used was a multi-level fixed-effect logistical regression.

Ajay Risal, MD, PhD (Reviewer 3): Authors have adequately addressed the reviewer and the editorial comments. It is a good paper to be published in this reputed journal.

Response: We sincerely appreciate your favorable comments.

Marta Rondon (Reviewer 4): Looking at family satisfaction with psychiatric inpatient care is revolutionary in that it recognizes that acceptability is a requisite of health care. It would be even more revolutionary to look at inpatient satisfaction with their own care. maybe too far out!

The result is too optimistic, but it is correctly obtained: following the methods described, so, I think that we must accept it with two caveats: low expectations, which has to do with the instrument itself and also with the culturally relevant expectations of the relatives. The new era of humanistic treatment, with multimodal approaches and psychopharmacologic interventions is rather young and the media, most non psychiatric health providers and the public at large still hold the view that mental illness condemns a person to being a non human like outcast, unable to experience any improvement.

The other caveat is that maybe what the family wants and expects is respite, obtained via hospitalization, regardless of conditions. I find that the conclusion is well founded on the results. And I look forward to seeing this paper in print If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English.

Response: We sincerely appreciate your favorable comments. We have incorporated your comments in the revised version. Additionally, our co-author, Dr. Jeffrey J. Rakofsky, is a native English speaker, who has polished the manuscript to improve its readability.