Author's response to reviews

Title: How different is the care of terminal pancreatic cancer patients in inpatient palliative care units and acute hospital wards? A nationwide population-based study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: MS: 1418293189167809 entitled “How different is the care of terminal pancreatic cancer patients in inpatient palliative care units and acute hospital wards? A nationwide population-based study”

Further editorial revisions:

1. Clarify in the Methods if the databases used are publicly available or if the authors required permission to access them and if so, from whom
   Response to the Reviewer:
   Thank you for this comment. We have clarified in the Methods that the databases used are publicly available (page 7, lines 6–7).

2. Include the tables at the end of the main manuscript and remove them from the additional files
   Response to the Reviewer:
   We have included the tables at the end of the main manuscript and removed them from the additional files.

3. Remove copy-edit certificate from the additional files
   Response to the Reviewer:
   We have removed copy-edit certificate from the additional files.

A point-by-point response to the comments that were provided by the reviewers:

Version: 4
Date: 12 November 2015
Reviewer: Hiroya Kinoshita

The manuscript has been revised well. I think this manuscript will be acceptable after some corrections have been done.
Response to the Reviewer:
Thank you for this comment.
Date: 23 November 2015
Reviewer: Anthony Staines

Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Response to the Reviewer:
Thank you for this kind suggestion. Following the reviewer’s comment, we have corrected all missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, and spelling mistakes (page 13, line 17 and page 15, line 1).

There remains one very minor point, which I ask the authors to address.
Patients were identified from the 'Registry for Catastrophic Illness Patient database, which is a separate subsection of the NHI database'. While I appreciate that it is likely that most patients would sign up for this, as it reduces care costs, can the authors confirm that this is so?
This is still not clear in the manuscript. Can the authors address this? I do not need to see the manuscript again,

Response to the Reviewer:
Thank you for this kind suggestion. Following the reviewer’s comment, we have revised the description as “Most patients who are diagnosed with cancer sign up for a Catastrophic Illness Card in Taiwan, and these cardholders are exempt from cost-sharing under the NHI program.” (page 8, lines 4–7).