Reviewer's report

Title: The mental health of nurses in acute teaching hospital settings: a cross-sectional survey

Version: 3 Date: 22 December 2014

Reviewer: Pei-Chen Lin

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Abstract: This "paper" describes .... It is not usually to use in the manuscript.
2. Abstract: "the survey tool comprised a complication of validated tools and questions." It is redundant and writer should tell us what should we to know about the tool.
3. About background: It is not very clearly to describe what do you want to convey, especially the "but" (P4, line4-5)
4. About study design: It is not clearly about "survey design". Is it cross-sectional survey or longitudinal survey.
5. About ethical considerations, some kind of description on the study population should not in this paragraph.
6. About data analyses, what is "critical level"?
7. About results, the 1,215 surveys is not equal to the sample size (1,270+230)
8. About mental health, some kind of description is too colloquially and it not usually in the study research, like n70 meaning... (line 14); "with group mean (SD) 1.6 (1.6) symptoms meaning...(line 16)
9. About predictors of mental health and vitality, please more clearly description on the result of linear regression, like" compare single, the nurses who lived with a spouse or partner had better mental health .... "

Minor Essential Revisions
1. About Aim: It is confused when the first sentence is "Part of a larger study of nurses' health". I could not find any reasons to support this in this manuscript.
2. About data analyses, It should be clearly described in frequency or level if it is a category variable. It should be better to describe on 2 or more sentences.
3. The spoke English as their primary language (75.3%) (Table 1) (line 22 on p.8) it can not find in table 1.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.