Reviewer’s report

Title: COMMUNICATION SKILLS INTERVENTION: PROMOTING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NURSES AND MECHANICALLY VENTILATED PATIENTS

Version: 0 Date: 20 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Carina Isabel Ferreira Martinho

Reviewer’s report:

The present study reports a very important study regarding the communication process in ICU’s. Nevertheless it is important to address some aspects regarding the theoretical content.

In Background the author’s should mentioned that it's possible to evaluate communication difficulties in this specific context by qualitative methods or quantitative methods, for example using the instrument "Ease of Communication Scale" developed by the Professor Linda Menzel.

In Background and in Discussion the author’s should mentioned the importance of a multidisciplinary team include a Speech and Language Pathologist, because it's the professional responsible for the communication and AAC and in certain patients your role is crucial for a well-succeed intervention, like is referred in many published studies.

It is also important to refer that patients with severe language deficits like aphasia and the illiterate patients could not use word and alphabet board's and the staff needs to be able to adapt and adjust the ACC devices.

Keywords - The keyword "Botswana" is redundant and it isn't specific for theme of the study and should be replaced for "AAC".

The author’s should revised the manuscript with a help of native English speaker. Many small error’s were detected, like in Background, line 2 ("mode") and line 4 ("allays").

Table 2 - It's important to clarify how was made the selection of the photos for the photo boards. What kind of photos you select? In colors? In Black and white? With white background? It's also important to clarify same characteristics for the word board, word phrases and alphabet board (font size, color size, color of background…).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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