Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical Placement Experiences by Undergraduate Nursing Students in Selected Teaching Hospitals in Ghana.

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER 1

Comment 1: The article report an important condition of undergraduate nursing training process and point out the area that can be improved.

Response 1: Authors are very grateful to kind comments from reviewer.

Comment 2: Methods setting: the meaning of "selected teaching hospitals" is not clear. According to the ethic statement, there seems to have 2 hospital involved. If it's so, please list the two hospitals here. If it's not only 2 hospitals, please explain why there is only two ethic committee approval obtained.

Response 2: The study was done in Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH). These two hospitals were the hospitals referred to as ‘selected hospitals’ in title. The names of the hospitals were not mentioned in title because of ethical reasons. They are now mentioned in setting and in ethical consideration sections as requested by reviewer. Authors are grateful for kind suggestions.

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER 2
comment 1: Literature review: please give some attention to the work by Aitken and others about the value of graduate nurses on surgical mortality.

response 1: The work by Aiken et al has now been used to support arguments made in favour of graduate nursing education. This has been added to the beginning of introduction where authors showed the value of graduate nursing education.

comment 2: The introduction reads rather negatively and needs to be more balanced.

response 2: The work by Aiken et al and others such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Institute of Medicine (IOM) have made work more balanced now. Authors are grateful to reviewer for kind suggestions.

comment 3: Sample: how was this chosen? from what population in total?

response 3: Sampling section had been modified to include total population from which sample was selected. 79 students were placed in the medical, surgical, paediatric and emergency units of KBTH and KATH at the time of this study. Data saturation was however reached after 35 of the students were interviewed. This has been stated in ‘Population and sampling technique’ section.

comment 4: The use of the term 'gadget' tends to refer to a device used by lay members of the population. Are you really referring to medical devices and/or information technology?

response 4: The term 'gadget has been modified to ‘medical devices’ since ‘medical devices’ is a much more clearer term to use in this study. We are grateful for the suggestion from reviewer.

RESPONSE TO EDITOR

comment 1: Your manuscript "Clinical Placement Experiences by Undergraduate Nursing Students in Selected Teaching Hospitals in Ghana." (NURS-D-18-00122R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Nursing, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

response 1: All suggested modifications and corrections have been done.

comment 2: We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.
response 2: A point by point response has been provided showing the changes in the various sections.

current 3: Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

response 3: Journal’s guidelines were complied with.

current 4: A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 06 Jan 2019.

response 4: Work has been revised and uploaded on the system.

current 5: Please note that you will not be able to add, remove, or change the order of authors once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication.

response 5: Authors are ready to comply with this guideline when manuscript is accepted for publication.

current 6: Any proposed changes to the authorship must be requested during peer-review, and adhere to our criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's policies. To request a change in authorship, please download the 'Request for change in authorship form' which can be found here - http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship. Please note that incomplete forms will be rejected. Your request will be taken into consideration by the editor, and you will be advised whether any changes will be permitted. Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorized attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

response 6: There are no proposed changes to authorship.