Author’s response to reviews

Title: A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNICATION AMONG NURSES AND PATIENTS

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Version: 2 Date: 25 Oct 2018

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RESPONSE

1. Study population clarified as requested by Reviewer 2 and can be found in the methods section

2. Better description of the interview guides and the interviews provided as suggested by Reviewer 2 and can be found in the methods section

3. Specific dates of data collection and who collected the data clarified as suggested by Reviewer 1 and can be found in the methods section

4. Description of the procedures used in analyzing the material provided as as suggested by Reviewer 2 and can be found in the methods section
5. What was done to ensure credibility stated as suggested by reviewer 1 and can be found in the methods section

6. The result section introduced by an overview of the results, and a systematic presentation of the material ensured as suggested by Reviewer 2 and can be found in the results section.

7. Why speaking French is a problem explained and can be found in the results section.

8. The manuscript has undergone a thorough language editing

REBUTTAL

Why would the patients expect nurses to bow to them?

The culture of Ghanaians will require you to bow them. In Ghana, it is expected that when one speaks to an elderly person one should bow.

Why according to your findings will you select patients that you labelled as "dementia"

Patients with dementia were not purposively selected. However, it was suspected that some patients who at the extremes of age may have Dementia and nurses have difficulty communicating with them as compared to those who are in the middle age. Dementia is a general term for loss of memory which is prevalent among the aged group.

Why would speaking French be a problem? How many people come to your hospital speaking French?

Ghana is an Anglophone speaking country and most residents don’t speak French. Therefore if a patient cannot speak English it will be difficult communicating. Occasionally, foreigners who speak French and are living in Ghana visit the Hospital.