Author’s response to reviews

Title: Provision of Care to Hospitalized Pediatric Burn Patients: a qualitative study among nurses at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS

Lesley Wilkes (Reviewer 1)

1. Important paper a few minor corrections
Response: Appreciated

2. p3 line 56 add years after 5 p3 line 58, 3 should be three p4 line 55 suggest conducted to replace done
Response: Corrected. See pages 3 and 5, lines 58-59 and 88 respectively.

3. p8 need to indicate if written information sheet provided to participants
Responses: Corrected. See pages 8-9, lines 171-173

4. Identifiers in exemplars (quotes) could be breaking anonymity. Only five participant and people in units or university may recognize implications written as paragraph rather than separate heading would be better

Responses: Corrected. See pages 12-21, lines 214-407. All identifiers have been removed. Thus, all quotes remain anonymous.

Lucila Nascimento (Reviewer 2)

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. There is no doubt that burn injury is a devastating injury, especially when it affects children. The provision of a high-quality care to hospitalized pediatric patients with burn injuries is desired by health care professionals and the
children's family and it affects the mortality and morbidity among burn patients. Therefore, research that focuses on the factors that influence the quality of care that pediatric patients received has academic and social relevance and this is certainly a topic of interest to the readers of this journal.

Response: Appreciated

2. **Background:** Despite the general information provided regarding the resources required to manage burn injuries in well-equipped/high income or in low income countries, I would love to see a systematic review of the evidence available in the literature about what has been influencing the provision of care to the pediatric patients with burn injuries globally. The findings of this review could be compared with the findings of the context under investigation.

Response: Although we could not find systematic review specifically about what has been influencing the provision of care to the pediatric patients with burn injuries globally, we have added some relevant literature about burn management. See page 4, lines 72-83.

3. **The last paragraph of the background should be expanded. Please, describe where this model was used before and in which context.**

Response: The paragraph has been expanded. The original model was derived from a concept analysis of suboptimal care of the acutely unwell ward patients in articles published between 1990 and 2009. See page 5, lines 99-101.

4. **Methods:** Design: it would be great to explain that the mentioned model has guided the development of the research, as mentioned in the last sentence of the background.

Response: Done. See page 6, lines 111-112.

5. **Participants:** Among the 18 nurses, how many met the inclusion criteria? Please, describe the exclusion criteria.

Response: Done. See page 6, line 125.

6. **Ethical consideration:** Please, comment and explain about the recruitment method chosen in the research.

Response: Done. See page 9, lines 174-176.

7. **From my perspective, there was an authority relationship among the nurse in charge and the potential participants that might has influenced the nurses' ability to decide taking part or not in the research. Could you please explain why some nurses chose not to take part in the research? Could you please explain if there if any author has any relationship with the setting where the research was developed or with the participants?**

Response: Done, see pages 7 and 9, lines 140-142 and 174-176 respectively.

8. **The relationship between researcher and participants must be adequately considered (reflexivity)**

Response: Done. See page 9, lines 178-181.

9. **Data collection:** Please, provide the minimum and maximum length of the interviews.

Response: Done. See page 7, lines 148-149.

10. **Please, inform how many interviews were performed with each participant.**

Response: Done. See page 7, lines 147-148.

11. **The observation technique was not clear to me. Please, explain why researchers needed to**
validate the information provided in face to face interview. How this observation was carried out?
Response: Done. See pages 7-8, lines 149-152.

12. Was there any guide for this interview? How it was performed?
Response: Done. See page 7, lines 144-145.

13. Data analysis: Could you please clarify if the data was analyzed after all interviews were performed? What about the observations? How the data resulted from the observations were analyzed?
Response: Done. See page 8, line 155; the observation notes facilitated understanding of data. See pages 7-8, lines 149-152.

14. Findings: Participants' characteristics: It would be great if other information regarding participants' education in the topic of burns or pediatric care had been recorded.
Response: Done. See page 10, lines 190-191.

15. Lack of standard skills: it was mentioned that students rotated in the unit. Please, explain if nurses have other responsibilities in the unit, for example, supervising students. Laboratory equipment: do you mean resources to collect material for analysis?
Response: Done. See pages 18-19, lines 345-348; laboratory equipment meant equipment for collecting specimen. See page 19, lines 356-357.

16. Poor social economic status: I highly recommend authors review this category, as it seems that it is not only related to the family economic background, but also to the cultural influence on the management of the child's burn injury by the family.
Response: Done. See page 21, lines 387-405.

17. Please, review the excerpts from the interviews, as all of them, except one, were derived from 2 participants (a 56 yo nurse with 7 years' experience and a 55 yo nurse with 9 years' experience in burn care).
Response: Amendment has been made per reviewer’s one observation. Given the number of interviewees, selection of quotes was based on quality of quotes rather than representation of quotes from each interviewee. Thus, the identity of all quotes has been removed. See pages 12-21, lines 212-405.

18. Discussion: Please, discuss the findings of the study with others developed in a similar context.
Response: Discussion has been elaborated. See page 24, lines 467-472.

19. Limitations: Please, discuss the limitations of the qualitative approach chosen, as it is a generic qualitative research, carried out with only 5 nurses, with data collection during only one month and with only one interview with each participant.
Response: Done. See pages 24-25, lines 474-479.

20. The author(s) are to be commended for their efforts, but the manuscript could be improved if the mentioned aspects were considered.
Response: Thank you; all comments have been addressed and the manuscript has greatly improved.