Author’s response to reviews

Title: REGISTERED NURSES’ PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF AUTONOMY: A DESCRIPTIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

Authors:

Titilayo Oshodi (Titilayo.Oshodi@anglia.ac.uk; oshodititilayo@hotmail.com)

Benjamin BRUNEAU (benbruneau2@gmail.com)

Rachel CROCKETT (Rachel.crockett@stir.ac.uk)

Francia KINCHINGTON (francia.kinchington@gmail.com)

Shoba NAYAR (snayar19@gmail.com)

Elizabeth WEST (lizwestbarron@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Titilayo O. Oshodi

Senior Lecturer
Anglia Ruskin University
Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education
Chelmsford Campus
4th Floor, William Harvey Building
Bishop Hall Lane
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1SQ
+44(0)845 196 4775
Titilayo.Oshodi@anglia.ac.uk

26 March 2019
Dear Professor Aronin,

Re: Cover letter for the original paper ‘Registered nurses’ perceptions and experiences of autonomy: A descriptive phenomenological study’

Please find attached our revised manuscript Registered nurses’ perceptions and experiences of autonomy: A descriptive phenomenological study for consideration for publication in the BMC Nursing.

We would like to thank the reviewers for their feedback. We have taken on board their suggestions and feel the paper is much stronger. Contained in this cover letter is a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments.

We declare that we do not have any potential competing interests, and confirm that all authors have approved the manuscript for submission. We also conform that the content of the manuscript has not been published, or submitted for publication elsewhere.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at Titilayo.Oshodi@anglia.ac.uk

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,
Response to Decision Letter (Reviewer 1)

1. The background lacks more information on the subject matter- its importance, its impact on nurse, patient, and organizational outcomes.
Answer: The information have now been added
Pages where highlighted: Pages 6

2. In page 2, line 10-18, the authors felt autonomy in England nurses maybe different with American nurses only. How about in comparison with nurses from other countries? Several studied can further enrich your background section.
Answer: Some of the suggested studies have been included
Pages where highlighted: Pages 6

Answer: Unfortunately, we could not use this paper because it is not relevant to our study. Lindberg, Fagerstrom, and Willman (2018) provides an understanding of the strategies used by patients to achieve autonomy in the role of patient.
Pages where highlighted: Paper was not used.

Answer: We found this study very useful in enriching our background section. Thank you.
Pages where highlighted: Pages 6

Answer: Commentary on Rao, Kumar, & McHugh’s (2017) paper. We found this study very useful in enriching our background section. Thank you.

Pages where highlighted: Pages 6


Answer: Unfortunately, we could not use this paper because we found that it does not add any value to our paper

Pages where highlighted: paper not used


Answer: We found this study very useful in enriching our background section. Thank you.

Pages where highlighted: page 7


Answer: We found this study very useful in enriching our background section. Thank you.

Pages where highlighted: page 7

9. I am wondering why phenomenology was not used in the study. Such study on ‘experiences’ are more fitting with phenomenology design.

Answer: Descriptive phenomenological approach is now being used. Thanks

Pages where highlighted: Pages 3, 8-9, 12-16
10. Figures seem chaotic to me. This is just a suggestion. The process of coding can be better presented in tabular form than the present presentation.

Answer: The coding is now being presented in tabular form. Thanks

Pages where highlighted: Pages 12 – 16

Response to Decision Letter (Reviewer 2)

11. GENERAL COMMENTS: Overall, the study is interesting and the authors have provided significant methodological details. The qualitative theme labels are not very descriptive (e.g. teamwork, professional knowledge) and they might be better represented with more descriptive titles.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The themes names could be edited to immediately give the readers a sense of what each theme is about and how it fits into the overarching story about the entire dataset in relation to the research questions.

Answer: Some of the themes and subthemes have been given more descriptive titles, as suggested. Thank you.

1. Working independently;
2. Working in a team;
3. Having professional skills and knowledge;
   - Having the right skills and knowledge
   - Decision-making based on clinical judgement
   - Making informed and evidence-based decisions
4. Involvement in autonomy;
   - Autonomy is experienced on a daily basis
   - Demonstrating autonomy in exceptional circumstances
5. Boundaries around autonomy
   - Working within boundaries
- Working beyond boundaries

6. Developing autonomy requires support

Pages where highlighted: Reflected throughout in the writing: pages 3, 15-16, 19-20, 24 – 27, 32 - 33