Author's response to reviews

Title: Effective hospital board oversight of patient safety: a stakeholder analysis exploring the role of trust and intelligence

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editors

We would like to thank you for your constructive comments and suggestions regarding our paper. We feel that we have successfully responded to these points and that our paper is now significantly improved as a result.

In summary, our paper has made the following amendments:

**Introduction**

- The introduction has been carefully edited to avoid repetition.
- The introduction makes reference to the international literature on Board governance of hospitals as deemed relevant to setting the scene and providing the justification for the study.
- There is a clearer statement of the research question(s) in the abstract and within the introductory section.

**Methods**

- We have provided further details about the purposive sampling approach that was employed.
- We have provided further explanation and justification regarding the narrative interview approach.
- The method section includes who carried out the interviews and provides further details about the approach to narrative analysis.
- The methods section refers to the particular methodological issues relevant to 'elite' interviews and how these were handled.

**Findings**

- We have restructured the findings to present them as a series of four narrative threads. These have been given clear subheadings to introduce each section.
- We have also provided further clarity to the discussion section in connecting to these narrative threads.

We hope that our paper now meets the necessary standards for submission to BMC Health Services Research. Again, we would like to thank you for your helpful suggestions which have undoubtedly improved the paper.

Kind regards

Ross Millar