Reviewer's report

Title: Factors determining the patients' care intensity for surgeons and surgical nurses: A conjoint analysis

Version: 4 Date: 1 May 2015

Reviewer: Robin Urquhart

Reviewer's report:

Please number your comments and divide them into

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Figure 1 demonstrates that nurses not only perceived more attributes to influence care intensity, but also assigned higher weights to these attributes than surgeons. While the authors provide potential explanations for the differences in terms of which attributes participants perceived important, I would like them to discuss the differences in assigning weights. Why were nurses' responses so much further from the reference value? What does this reflect?

2. It is interesting that surgeons and nurses responses related to care intensity were so different related to medical diagnosis. Why might surgeons have perceived the cancer patients to influence care intensity more than others, whereas nurses also rated diagnoses such as critical leg ischemia and cholithiasis as being strongly influential as well?

3. Please comment on whether these results are generalizable to different settings and jurisdictions.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 2, line 69: I believe the citation [9-1] should be [9-10] or [9-11]

2. Page 5, line 134: This was not a random sample of nurses. Please remove “A random sample of” and simply begin with “Surgical nurses were approached …”

3. Please describe (at first mention) what ASA-classification is. Readers without surgical knowledge may not know what this is.

4. Please define what is meant by the attribute ‘multi-disciplinary treatment.’ The precise definition of this is unclear.

5. Table 1: Please indicate somewhere (in text or as a footnote to this table) what nutrition status 0=no and 1=yes mean.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.