Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Associated with Prolonged Length of Stay for Elective Hepatobiliary and Neurosurgery Patients: A Retrospective Medical Record Review

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Comments by and Responses to Editor:

1. “I would like to suggest two quick comments regarding Table 3, 4 before its publication. (1) Please choose one of two: beta(s.e) or Exp(B). The reason is that I have never seen putting two things in the table in academic paper. Mathematically, they are the same thing. Even one of reviewers suggested this. I think that choosing one would be better.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We agree that it is odd to include both beta and Exp(B). We have chosen to report Exp(B) since the reviewer had previously requested that statistic.
2. “(if you choose Exp(B), please correct 4.33 (which should be 4.35 in table 3); 7.07 (should be 7.10), 19.96(should be 19.89) in Table 4.”

Response: Thank you for picking this up. We have made the changes. The reason for the difference is that we reported the statistic from the SPSS output and think that the conversions were made to the 6th decimal point.

3. “(2) I thought about stepwise logistic regression. The reason we choose this method is that we want to choose which predictors are most likely to be associated with outcome variable. So, the predictors that are not associated with outcome variable would be unnecessary for the results tables. So, my suggestion is: please delete all the non-significant predictors from the table 3 and 4. If you want, then you can use a note, its deletion, at the bottom of the Table 3, 4.”

Response: Thank you very much for your suggestions. We have made the changes and included a note in each of tables 3 and 4 stating that non-significant factors were omitted from the table.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to publish in BMC Health Services Research. Thank you as well for your patience as we worked through the revisions. Your guidance and the reviewers’ comments were invaluable in making the manuscript publishable.