Author’s response to reviews

Title: Determinants of inappropriate admissions of children to county hospitals: A cross-sectional study from rural China

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Dear editor and reviewer,

Thanks for your wonderful comments and suggestions on our last revised manuscript. We have taken all the comments and suggestions from you into account, in which we found helpful. We are pleased to response to them point by point and changes in the article. We hope that the revised manuscript will satisfy you.

Dear professor Roy Grant, MA,

Our responses to your comments are below:

1. Abstract, Methods, substitute "aged" for "aging". State the criteria for inappropriate admissions (which appears in the first sentence of the Background Section) before reporting data on inappropriate admissions in the Results Section.
Response: OK, we have changed “aging” to “aged” (Line 48) and have added the first sentence of the background section at the beginning of the results section in the abstract (Line 55-56).

Line 48: A retrospective review was conducted on data of children aged 0-14 years.

Line 55-56: Inappropriate admissions indicate that patients who could have been treated as outpatients received services as inpatients.

2. Line 96, substitute "data show" for "shows" and review the paper to ensure that the word "data" is always treated as plural. This paragraph, beginning at line 84, is too long and should be broken into several paragraphs.

Response: It’s a question. First, we have substituted “data show” for “shows” (Line 96-97). Second, based on your suggestions and what the paragraph itself expresses, we have divided the paragraph that begins with line 84 in the last revised manuscript into two paragraphs. The segmentation point is in lines 106 to 107 of this revised manuscript.

Line 96-97: Taking a prefecture-level city in China as an example, data show that…

3. Line 175, this material should all be consistently written in past tense, "were" not "are"; line 184, "corresponded" not "correspond", etc.

Response: It’s our negligence. We have substituted “were” for “are” (Line 175); "corresponded" for "correspond" (Line 186). And we also have modified the tense of other parts of the article.

Line 175: Considering the actual situation of China, 771 admission records were collected at…

Line 186: If an index value corresponded to the standard value, the admission record was appropriate.

4. Line 190, begin this sentence with "First," and delete "firstly" from the end of the sentence.

Response: OK, we have deleted “firstly” and have added “First,” at the beginning of the sentence (Line 191-192).

Line 191-192: First, information, including personal and hospitalisation information of patients, was collected from the inpatient medical records.

5. Line 225, after average age report age range in parentheses.

Response: It’s a question. We have added parentheses and reported the age range in parentheses (Line 226-227).
Line 226-227: The first column in Table 3 shows the children’s admission data: 61.09% were male, the average age was 4.25 years old (age range: 0-14 years old)…

6. Line 305, there seems to be a missing word in this sentence. Add "more" so that it reads "more strained than before". The sentence beginning "Considering" should be rephrased so that it is less harsh in discussing parents of children who are ill, avoiding words like "unstable" and "uncontrollable"; "concerned" and "anxious" might be a better alternatives.

Response: Thanks for your excellent concern, we agree it’s necessary. First, we have added “more” to make it reads “more strained than before” (Line 306-307). Second, we have rephrased the sentence beginning with “Considering” (Line 307-308).

Line 306-307: Moreover, because relations between the doctors and patients are more strained than before.

Line 307-308: Doctors will consider that parents are more sensitive to the treatment mood of children, that is, out of concern for children, parents are more anxious when their child is sick…