Author’s response to reviews

Title: “Implications of Cost-Sharing for Observation Care among Medicare Beneficiaries: A Pilot Survey”

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Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for the opportunity to improve our manuscript. Please see responses below.

Editor Comments:

1. Page 8, line 19

Please revise the sectioned mentioned above. The current wording includes: "and 5 adult children". Please clarify this statement.

Thank you for allowing us to clarify. We changed the wording of the results so that it is the same in the methods: designated family member.

Please see the revised text on page 8 as below:

There were 160 patients who completed interviews, and of these, 150 were completed by the patient, and 10 by designated family members.

2. Consent to participate

In your methods you have stated that consent from some participants was obtained from a spouse. Please provide this as a clear statement in the Ethics and consent to participate section of your Declarations. Please also provide a statement confirming whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.
The Ethics section was amended with the following text:

Ethics approval and consent to participate*: The Christiana Care Institutional Review Board approved this study. All study subjects provided verbal informed consent and this was approved by the Christiana Care Institutional Review Board. Designated family members could answer questions at the patients request or if the patient was confused or had a history of significant cognitive impairment. This was approved by the Christiana Care Institutional Review Board.

3. Verbal consent

Please provide an explanation as to why verbal and not written consent was obtained from participants, in the ethics and consent to participate section of your Declarations.

This section was edited as below in the Ethics section under Declarations:

All study subjects provided verbal informed consent as the research presented no more than minimal risk of harm to subjects, and this was approved by the Christiana Care Institutional Review Board.

4. Clean manuscript

At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours.

Completed

All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

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Please remove any files that should not be published along with your manuscript e.g. cover letters, reviewer responses, guidelines etc., ready for publication.

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