Author's response to reviews

Title: The Integrated Nutrition Pathway for Acute Care (INPAC): Building consensus with a modified Delphi.

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Author's response to reviews:

Thank you for your efficient review of this manuscript.

Reviewer 1 had no required revisions and as termed by this reviewer, were ‘discretionary’. We have not made any changes based on this reviewer other than the inclusion of the two pages of the INPAC. Our rationale for not making other changes is noted below.

1. The title has not been changed as the authors feel it is important to name the pathway so that it is readily identified. The methodology is already noted in the title.

2. Although a detailed review of the methodology for the modified Delphi makes the paper longer, for clinicians and practitioners, understanding the depth and rigor of development of the INPAC needs to be demonstrated to promote acceptance of this new pathway. As such, this section has not been revised.

3. Providing quotes and elaboration of the focus group findings to give more in-depth insight into these results would unduly lengthen the paper. The primary results from a Delphi are statistics in the form of agreement.

4. Figure 2 and 3 now provide the full INPAC.

5. Other comments on composition of experts. A large group was deemed necessary to promote acceptance of the pathway in Canada.

6. Description on participants is provided in Table 1 to give some sense of
clinician vs. researcher expertise. It is noted in the Discussion the potential limitations of such a large group.

Reviewer #2

The only minor revision from this reviewer was the inclusion of a description of the questions used for the focus groups with staff. General content on these questions are now provided in the text and are highlighted.