Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nurse staffing in large general hospitals in China: An observational study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your attention and the reviewers’ evaluation and comments on our paper. We have revised the manuscript according to your advices and detailed suggestions. Enclosed please find the responses to the reviewers.

Thank you very much for all your help and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards

Sincerely

Weiyan Jian
Responses by the Authors to the reviewers’ comments

Reviewer 4 Comments for Author

1. The conclusion of the abstract should be re-organized. You don’t know whether the low staffing of nurses is a problem or not because you did not compare the adverse events between day and night shifts. Also, you do not have the evidence indicating it is necessary to set standard for different regions. Please conclude according to your results.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion. “In China, the nurse staffing of large general hospitals have some regional and departmental patterns. The low level of nurse staffing at night may be a problem worthy of attention, the Chinese government needs to establish standards for different periods and departments to improve efficiency and quality of nursing.”

2. Page 3, line 30, reference is needed.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.


3. In paragraph 2, the sentence "In 2012,…1:8." Should be moved before "By the end of 2017, the number of …" according to the time order.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.

4. The first two sentences of paragraph 3 can be omitted in my opinion.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.
5. The fifth paragraph, why not citing the newest National Care Nursing Development Plan (2016-2020)?

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion. “According to the National Care Nursing Development Plan (2016-2020) [10], tertiary hospitals (bed to nurse ratio =1:0.8) should assign more nurses to clinical work than secondary hospitals (bed to nurse ratio =1:0.7) and primary hospitals (it depends).”

6. Please consider to put paragraph 3 after paragraph 1 because these two paragraphs are about the importance of your topic. Besides,

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.

7. The first paragraph of discussion part is too long.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.

8. Your explanation on the differences in the staffing of nurses among different regions do not make sense to me.

R: Thank you for the comments. This question has been revised according to your suggestion.