Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 12 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Ashagre Assaye

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:

Better not to use abbreviations on the abstract.

Grammar and spelling shall be checked: For instance, "date" instead of data.

I understand this is a secondary data, I expect on using review or data extraction checklist instead of questionnaire.

Better to write the full term of Nurse-to-patient ratio instead of abbreviation as key word.

Introduction:

Better to add more information about what class A hospitals are.

Method:

Line 14: On the setting and sample section consent from hospitals is obtained. It is good how this consent is obtained? By whom and from whom? This may imply the need of ethics approval.

Line 17: Better to describe …. Inclusion criteria instead of study criteria.

For the information from line 17 -34, good to include reference.

Line 36: It is necessary to justify why only one day data was taken.

Page 7

Line 12: Better to write as type of hospital and type of ward instead of ward name and hospital name.
Line 22: better to elaborate the nurses at each hospital who were assigned to collect data got appropriate training on how to collect the data.

Page 8

Line 24: It is important to elaborate what components of the study was approved. Is that equivalent with ethical approval. Ethics approval might be needed to approach the hospitals and collect data about the hospitals and the units including the number of nurse.

Page 9:

Line 18: better to rewrite "n" number of nurses.

Page 10

Line 12: Table 2, the nurse-to-patient ratio is not put as ratio.

Line 58: Table 3, similar comment as above.

Additional table that contains both the daytime and nighttime NTP ratio and if it is significantly differ. Otherwise based on the presented data, it is difficult to conclude either the presence or absence of significant relationship.

Page 14

Line: 53 the conclusion should only base on the result form this study. It may not be possible to conclude about recommended standards or no incentive mechanism for hospitals.

General: How can be generalized nurses shift as daytime and nighttime only. I think such classification did not consider the three-shift system. It is important to clarify this point.

**Level of interest**

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An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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