Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 29 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Xu Liu

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for your efforts on this paper. The paper is improved. However, there are still some problems and further revision is needed. Since you did not have the page number, I count from the abstract page.

1. Page 1, line 4-5, I don't know how nurse staffing reflect the level of nursing management. I suggest you to reconsider this inappropriate sentence.

2. Page 2, line 32-33, the "inefficient use of resources, and unequal access to health care" seem to be irrelevant to your topic.

3. Page 2, line 43-44, full name is needed when you first mention NTP. Also, please revise the abstract section.

4. Page 2, line 57-58, definition and reference for "Eleventh Five-Year" is needed. Also, what's the relationship between this plan and nurse number? Please clarify.

5. Page 2, line 60, add a time point after "1.35 million".

6. Page 3, line 3, add a time point after "4.45 million".

7. Page 3, line 11-12, "health care workforce" or "nurse workforce"?


10. Page 4, line 45, a reference is needed after "patient safety".

11. Page 3, paragraph 2, pay attention to the citation in text. The format should be Surname (year), for example, Aiken et al. (2014). Revise throughout.

12. Page 4, line 26, a reference is needed after "staffing of nurses".

13. Page 4, line 45, a reference is needed after "complex conditions".
14. Page 4, paragraph 2, add more description about the status of NTP ratios in Tertiary A hospitals to declare why your study is necessary.

15. Page 4, line 50, "nurse to patient ratio (NTP ratio)", just "NTP ratio" is fine.

16. Page 4, paragraph 3, still no background information about your aim (2)-(4).

17. Page 5, line 47-48, a references is needed after "nursing resource".

18. Page 5, line 53, "in other countries", please clarify which countries and give references.

19. Page 6, where did the patient and nurse numbers from? Who collected/reported them?

20. Page 6, line 20, I don't know why you collected "number of beds during the day and night", did they make a difference?

21. Page 10, Table 4, I think this table is redundant. Information has been given in Table 2 and 3.


23. Page 11, line 6-9, "This may be… to assign nurses", please add further explanations to this sentence. The sentence does not make sense to me.

24. Page 11, line 20-23, add a reference. Besides, the sentence here repeated with the content on page 12, paragraph 1.

25. Page 11, line 47-53, "This may be…", please add further explanations. How is nurse staffing relate to the "regional economic…."?

26. Page 11, line 56, add the standard and relevant references.

27. Page 12, line 28-31, this sentence does not make sense to me. Please clarify.

28. Page 12, line 50, add a reference here after "national government".

29. Page 13, line 28-29, The "three shifts" of nursing should be introduced earlier as background information about nursing shifts in Chinese hospitals.

30. Page 13, line 39-40. Please be cautious when you state "nursing staffs at night may potentially influence patient safety" as your conclusion, because this is not explored in your study.
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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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