Author’s response to reviews

Title: The ICU-Diary study: Prospective multicenter comparative study of the impact of an ICU diary on the well-being of patients and families in French ICUs

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Thank you to Peter Nydhal for his time in reviewing this manuscript.
Comment 1.

Page 6, first paragraph: the last two sentences of the paragraph need at least one (or more) reference/s.

Answer 1. We added some references as suggested by the reviewer.

Comment 2. First entry (page 13/14, intervention): patients are recruited 48 hours after admission, and an entry in the diary each day is planned. These entries start after recruitment and inclusion in the study, hence after 48h, but what about the first two days? Is there a person in charge who writes the "first entry", covering the patient's story of the first two days before recruitment, e.g. nurse, physician, relative? Are there any rules how to report these days? If so, the authors should provide some information about that.

Answer 2. The first entry is done by a ICU physician or a nurse at the opening of the diary after randomization. The story of the first two days is immediately written by an ICU physician. after randomization No relatives will written the first entry. The different rules and suggestions for reporting these days are reported in the guide given to the ICU staff.

We added in the paragraph intervention: The first entry is written immediately after randomization by the ICU physician and include a summary of the reason for admission, the name of the ICU and of the hospital, and a summary of the events of the first 48 hours.

Comment 3. Photos (page 13/14, intervention): the diary includes example photos of an ICU room. Are there any rules for producing and using photos of the patient? Are staff and/or relatives encouraged to make photos or not? Using photos occasionally (and not standardized) may lead to a bias in first and second outcome parameters, hence a description of the photo-management would be useful.

Answer 3. The ICU staff was not encouraged to take photos of the patient because this needs the authorization of the patient or relatives in case of incompetency. Taking photos by the relatives was forbidden for the same reason because requiring patient’s authorization. But if relatives passed over this banning, this could not be controlled in the study. Therefore, photos from the patient during the ICU stay are not allowed in the diary. Nevertheless, we could not control that they will not take photos with their smartphones. Photos of the patient outside the ICU setting (for example photos of his family etc…) are allowed. But we cannot always control than they will not take photos with their smartphone.
We added in the text: Relatives are not encouraged to take photos of the patient during the whole stay without patient’s permission. No patient’s photo taken during the ICU stay are allowed in the ICU diary, only pictures taken prior the ICU stay (which were taken with the patient ‘authorization).