5 July 2013

697-5115-2-RV

**Letter responding to each point raised by reviewers**

**Title:** The GAMMA nursing measure: it’s development and testing for nursing utility.

**Reviewer 1**

**Point 1:** The reviewer required a title change of the manuscript reflecting a scale rather than measure. This is a valid point that was previously debated by the authors. This article is one of a series of six articles on the development of three interrelated nursing measures to be reported on in the HSAG. The measures are named the BETA, GAMMA and DELTA measures. Each of the three measures is reported on in two articles. The first article informs on its development and nursing utility, and the sequential article reports its construct validity using Rasch analyses. The dilemma was whether to refer in the title of the first articles as a nursing score, whilst knowing well that in perpetuity it will be referred to as a measure. The authors thus concluded that for the sake of continuity we should refrain from referring to a score in the titles of all six articles. Furthermore, the BETA final printed copy of the first article has already been approved with the title referring to a nursing measure.

We are grateful that reviewer picked up our dilemma and was able to contribute to our internal debate. We sincerely hope the reviewer would agree to our decision.

**Point 2:** The abstract does not reflect the content of the manuscript. The omissions were corrected in both the English and Afrikaans abstracts.

**Point 3:** The definition of carers should be deleted. Done

**Point 4:** Change the description of two studies to a study with 2 phases**.** Done

**Point 5:** Provide explanation of the codes (B1, A3 etc.). The alphabetic codes are explained on page 13 under the paragraph Data Analysis. The numeric code reflects the representation of the code in the data. In other words, the last A17 would indicate that code A is represented 17 times in the dataset.

**Point 6:** Include the key limitation of omitting caregivers. Done

**Point 7:** Editorial mistakes were corrected as indicated by reviewers.