

Peer Review File

Article Information: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/apm-20-56>

Response to reviewer A

Comment 1: *In the opening where you describe nurses' stress, add more references - there is much work done in this area.

Reply 1: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 04, line 88-95

Comment 2: *Lines 58-69 need to be re-written to present the ideas logically, and build your argument. Watch your use of words such as 'therefore' and 'thus' as they imply a conclusion or association among ideas that may or may not be logical.

Reply 2: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 03, line 73-104

Comment 3: *Lines 61-65 need to be made more clear

Reply 3: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 76-79

Comment 4: *Line 72 - needs rewording - the search identified there were few studies published

Reply 4: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 04, line 108-110

Comment 5: *Line 74 - should be phrased 'using a qualitative approach'

Reply 5: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 04, line 108-110

Comment 6: *Line 101-102 how many nursing staff in the hospital? how were they informed about the study? how did the research identify and approach individual nurses?

Reply 6: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 05, line 134-138

Comment 7: *Line 106-7 what do you mean by 'susceptible to risks of contamination' as it is worded here?

Reply 7: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 139-141

Comment 8: *Please clarify sampling saturation versus data saturation...your description is not clear here...usually the approach is to accrue until data saturation is reached (and there is a procedure to ensure this process)

Reply 8: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 142-147

Comment 9: *Was there only one criteria for participants? nothing about being a qualified professional? or anything about years of practice?

Reply 9: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 139-141

Comment 10: *Were there any probes or follow-up questions used during the interview?

Reply 10: We have modified our text as advised
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 158-160

Comment 11: *Lines 122 - what was the average length of the interviews? what language were they conducted in? If this was not English, what was the process for translation of the data/analysis in which language?

Reply 11: We have modified our text as advised

Changes in the text: see Page 07, line 169-173 and Page 08, line 193-195

Comment 12: *Lines 143-148 are not clearly written

Reply 12: We have modified our text as advised

Changes in the text: see Page 07, line 190-192

Comment 13: *Line 157 - typo - capital T

Reply 13: We have modified our text as advised

Changes in the text: see Page 08, line 205

Comment 14: *you need to describe who coded the interviews and what processes were used to ensure rigour

Reply 14: We have modified our text as advised

Changes in the text: see Page 07, line 173-189

Comment 15: *In using direct quotes, how can it come from more than one individual; multiple references to participants after the direct quotes is confusing

Reply 15: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 12, line 316-319, 323-326 and 350-353

Response to reviewer B comments

Comment 1: The word selection is somehow odd in this paper. Examples: Abstract/ line 32: central. I would suggest replacing it with major/main.

Reply 1: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 02, line 37-38

Comment 2: Data analysis/line 126: literally. Do you mean accurate?

Reply 2: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 7, line 173-177

Comment 3: Abstract: While the paper's main goal, according to the abstract, is to identify major stressors, the results are reporting difficulties.

Reply 3: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 02, line 37-38

Comment 4: Introduction: there is a significant lack of citation and literature review. Many facts were stated in the introduction with no citations.

Reply 4: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 03, line 65-68 and 76-104

Comment 5: Line 66: The sentence "In this unprecedented situation, ..." so what? What is the impact of this sentence on your study?

Reply 5: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text

Changes in the text: see Page 04, line 88-95

Comment 6: Line 72, 73, & 74: not accurate! COVID-19 is a new type of virus, but studies assess stressors in other settings that are currently published and the studies from other pandemics (SARS, for example). I would suggest conducting a literature review to strengthen your claims.

Reply 6: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 04, line 96-104

Comment 7: Methods: How were the subjects recruited?

Reply 7: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 05, line 137-141

Comment 8: The sample size is small.

Reply 8: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 142-147

Comment 9: The interviews were conducted during working hours in the hospitalization sector.
Do you mean the 'hospitalization unit'?

Why do the authors choose to conduct interviews during working hours (not via video meetings)?

Reply 9: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 07, line 166-168

Comment 10: Any disruption and distracting to the nurses' work and daily tasks?

Reply 10: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 163-165

Comment 11: In what language were the interviews conducted?

Reply 11: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 07, line 169-170

Comment 12: "worked from four to seven years," the correct term is "years of experience."

Reply 12: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 08, line 201-203

Comment 13: What are the nursing technicians' main tasks to do? How are they different from nurses? If they don't interact directly with patients, then why did you combine them with nurses?

Reply 13: We have modified our text as advised - New references included in the text
Changes in the text: see Page 06, line 154-155