

Dear Dr. Li-Jun Cui,

We are pleased to submit our revised manuscript 45882, entitled "*Outpatient telephonic transitional care after hospital discharge improves survival in cirrhotic patients*" to the World Journal of Hepatology.

We found the reviewer's critique very helpful. We believe our revisions in response to the critique have strengthened the manuscript. Our point-by-point response to the reviewer's comments is outlined below.

### **Response to Reviewer 1**

This research evaluated the mortality rate between those cirrhotic patients who had TELEPHONIC TRANSITIONAL CARE AFTER HOSPITAL DISCHARGE and control group. It showed that the intervention group showed significantly higher 6 month survival compared to controls. The paper concluded that subsequent transitional care programs should be revisited. There are some comments as follows:

1. Please select the keywords based on MeSH terms

- We thank the reviewer for this valuable suggestion. We have modified the keywords to ensure that they now all reflect MESH terms.

2. Please define the Ethical considerations

- Our study is a retrospective analysis of cirrhotic patients cared for in our inpatient hepatology service. All patients received standard care during their inpatient and transitional care period. All patients (except those being discharged to hospice care) were eligible to receive the OTTC program interventions. However, in this study we provide results of only the pilot phase of this program, where due to limited manpower, the OTTC program was only offered to cirrhotics who were deemed at high risk for readmission. This determination was made by the multi-disciplinary inpatient hepatology team, prior to discharge.

Modification has been made in the methods section under study design subheading stating that "Standard of care treatment was continued for all study patients during their inpatient and transitional care period and the OTTC program was offered as an additional intervention to selected patients."

3. Please do not duplicate the data of tables and diagrams in the text
  - We have made an effort to reduce the redundancy of reporting of data from the table and figures in the text.
  - Multiple statements have been deleted all through the results section as highlighted via track changes.
4. Please define the randomization method if done
  - Since this was an observational study, randomization was not performed.

### **Response to Reviewer 2**

The study is well done and the manuscript is well written. I agree with the limitations as discussed by the authors.

- We thank the reviewer for this positive feedback and have addressed the limitations raised by other authors in other parts of this response letter.

### **Response to Reviewer 3**

1. This is an interesting research, but there is some parts that need to be revised. In Abstract section, the results part, line 3, a period mark is missing.
  - Correction has been made to this section as suggested.
2. Results: I would like to see the cause of patients' death.
  - This data has now been added in the results section in the following statement "The causes of death in the cohort were septic shock (n=26), acute renal failure and dyselectrolytemia (n=4), acute respiratory failure (n=4), gastrointestinal bleeding (n=2), cardiac arrhythmia (n=2), intracranial hemorrhage (n=2) and pulmonary embolism (n=1)."
3. Discussion: Paragraph 3, the authors discussed too much about heart failure. I think it should be removed.
  - We accept the reviewer's suggestion and have shortened paragraph 3 under discussion.
4. Paragraph 4-6 The author has elaborated on other researchs, which I think should be summarized.
  - We thank the reviewer for this valuable suggestion and have summarized these studies and reduced the content to 2 instead of 3 paragraphs.

**Response to editor's suggestions:**

- Multiple changes have been made to the headings, subheadings, references and other article sections per the editor's suggestion.
- Please now find the proof of institutional review board attached as pdf file.
- Please find the audio version of core tip attached as mp3 file.
- Unfortunately due to the nature of the data analysis software program used, we are unable to provide the figures in an editable format. We sincerely hope that the editors can excuse us for this.