

AUTHOR RESPONSES – MS #09/070

We are pleased to resubmit our paper, entitled “The Use of the Intention-to-Treat Principle in Nursing Clinical Trials.” We appreciate the reviewers’ many helpful comments, as well as their enthusiasm for our study. We think this will be a very useful paper for nurse researchers, journal editors, and peer reviewers.

Based on reviewers’ comments, we have made the following changes:

1. We have added references on page 2 supporting our claim that RCTs are the “gold standard” of designs for testing interventions, and that the intention-to-treat (ITT) principle is the gold standard analysis approach. (Reviewer 1, comment 1)
2. We have clarified that the studies being described on page 5 are studies of medical RCTs (Reviewer #1, comment 2)
3. We have noted on page 6 that an overall goal of our research is to sensitize nurse researchers, users of nursing evidence, and journal editors/peer reviewers about the purpose and significance of ITT (Reviewer #1, comment 2). This point is reiterated in the Discussion section, page 16.
4. We have added a column in Table 1 with impact factor information for the journals in the study—an excellent suggestion (Reviewer #1, comment 4).
5. We have eliminated Figure 2 and replaced it with a table summarizing several findings relating to attrition. We concur that the table is clearer and more informative than the figure (Reviewer #1, comment 6)
6. We have reduced the number of keywords (style comments).
7. We have changed the reference list and have used “et al” for the three references with more than 6 authors (style comments).
8. We have provided the page number for the quote by Higgins and Green (style comments).