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**S.C. Psichiatria Verbano**

Responsabile f.f.: Dott. Marco Piero Piccinelli

BPG Editorial Office

August 12th, 2021

Ref: Manuscript N. 65623 - Piccinelli et al. "Rethinking hospital psychiatry in Italy in light of COVID-19 experience"

Dear Sir,

please you find herewith transmitted a revised version of the paper referenced above for your consideration for publication in the World Journal of Virology.

In the revision of the paper all of the reviewers' comments were taken into consideration. In particular:

**Reviewer #1**

- Under the Study design, it was acknowledged that the study period was relatively short, though it corresponded to the entire duration of the strict lockdown imposed on Italy at the outset of the pandemics
- Among the limitations of the study, it was mentioned that the study was based on a single inpatient unit, alongside the fact that the unit under study did not differ significantly compared to other inpatient units located in Lombardia Region as well as those selected in a representative national sample
- The Conclusion was shortened and was kept in line with the study results
- Under the Study design, it was mentioned that, although mental health services were permitted to pursue their activities as part of essential health care and reimbursement of their interventions was left unchanged, number of beds were reduced and hospital admissions were limited to urgent and undeferrable cases which could not receive adequate treatment outside the hospital.

**Reviewer #2**

1. Under the Study design, the COVID test procedure at hospital admission was described
2. Rather than reporting the checklist, in the Table it was mentioned that the listed factors correspond to the items included in the 20-item checklist; moreover, the four items not included in the Table, since they were null, were mentioned in a footnote
3. P-values were added to the Table
4. The Conclusion was shortened and was kept in line with the study results

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

*Marco Piero Piccinelli*

Dr. Marco Piero Piccinelli

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