Reviewer's report

Title: Development, validation, and results of a survey to measure understanding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation choices among ICU patients and their surrogate decision makers

Version: 2
Date: 14 February 2014

Reviewer: Hildy Schell-Chaple

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript and the results highlight an important clinical practice concern amongst ICU clinicians who have these goal of care discussions and also have opportunities for development of effective methods for educating patients and surrogates. The validation of the tool to measure effectiveness of innovative interventions is an important contribution.

Major compulsory revisions: None

Minor essential revisions:
1. In the abstract introduction: please reword sentence #1 so it clarifies that it is shared decision making about resuscitation goals of care...depend on a basic understanding of CPR.
2. Introduction: second paragraph - typo "as well as well"
3. The methods section is well written, clear and concise. The steps for testing the survey tool validity and reliability are well described and address groups tested and follow up survey optimization steps.
4. Results: paragraph 2 add (IQR) after median (to match how presented in table and abstract result section
5. Results: Table 1: states 32 patients excluded (adds up to 36). Consider clarifying participants as either patients or surrogates.
6. Recommend the descriptive data (%) groups that could identify at least 2 components of CPR (especially if you have data specific that they could identify chest compressions and artificial ventilation) as this data is revealing of the sample.
7. Table 1: The characteristics of participants has 2 questions. Recommend rewording these so the data is more easily interpreted. e.g. Have you performed CPR on somebody else? -Have performed CPR on someone else and Had/History of CPR performed on self.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.