Reviewer’s report

Title: A review of patients who suddenly deteriorate in the presence of paramedics

Version: 2 Date: 18 April 2008

Reviewer: E. Brooke Lerner

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Minor Essential Revisions
1) abstract: The results need to state that the 2,893 patients represent 5.1% of the total number of trauma calls to support your conclusion “This study suggests that the incidents of patients suddenly deteriorating in the presence of paramedics are low.”

2) I agree your definition for sudden deterioration is clear but I am confused by the criteria. For example you state “Sudden increase in pulse rate – 20 beats per minute above previous reading, or greater than 110 beats per minute, or less than 50 beats per minute” in the discussion it says after the initial measure. So perhaps this is actually: Sudden increase in pulse rate – 20 beats per minute above previous reading, or any change that resulted in the pulse dropping below 50 beats per minute or raising above 110 beats per minute. All of the criteria are a bit confusing.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
None