Reviewer’s report

Title: Are pediatric Open Access journals promoting good publication practice: An analysis of author instructions

Version: 2 Date: 3 January 2011

Reviewer: Tove Faber Frandsen

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
The study is based on a very small data sample and includes very few variables. The authors state in their comments to the reviewers: "Given the exploratory nature of our study with a focus on guidance given by journals and limitations of the data set, we did not attempt to establish any causal relationships." It should be made more explicit in the title and/or the abstract that the authors consider their study to be of an exploratory nature and that there is made no attempt to establish any causal relationships. The focus is consequently on establishing grounds for further research into author guidelines.

The study should (with respect to the limited sample size) include control variables that describe the two groups of journals with respect to more than type of publisher, geographical location and open access status. Are the two groups of journals only different in terms of these characteristics?

Given the small sample size and the number (as well as the level of detail) of the variables included in the study I think the authors should consider including more fields or more detailed data in their study. At this point in time it is not as interesting as it could be.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests