Reviewer's report

**Title:** Withdrawal of life-support in paediatric intensive care - a study of time intervals between discussion, decision and death

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 16 February 2011

**Reviewer:** William Meadow

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an excellent submission – blessedly short and to the point;

The point is that, in their big Australian PICU, more than ¾ of deaths follow withdrawal of life-support, and most happen pretty quickly.

That may not seem earth-shaking, but it’s a useful addition to the literature.

Here are some suggestions for making the revision even more useful;

1) make a bigger distinction between previous reports of Withdrawing in NICUs vs PICUs – most literature is from NICUs, and the issues there, I bet, are not the same – stick to PICUs for the most part in your literature reviews, unless you just can’t find enough – then make the point that PICUs seem different;

2) the stuff about DCD donation can be fleshed out more – don’t be afraid of it – it’s one of the more important conclusions of the ms.

3) i like the fact that the authors told us why most withdrawal happened (futility, and not QOL) – but could they make more explicit what, exactly, got withdrawn (vents, I bet – any cathechol infusions alone? Any ECMO?)

4) that’s it – do those things, and I’d publish it; clear, concise, to-the-point, and useful;