Reviewer's report

Title: Does the inclusion of 'professional development' teaching improve medical students' communication skills?

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2010

Reviewer: Hacer Harlak

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
  # In the methods, the information given under the title “participants” does not appropriately describe the sample characteristics. There is no information about the number and descriptive characteristics of participants.
  # There is no information about totally how many students invited to participate in the study and how 70 students were determined as subsample and, how 82 students took part in video interviews although 70 students had been determined.
  # The information under the subtitle of “number of videoed consultations” in the Results is not a result. This information is a part of the procedure and participants.
  # It can be suggested that in order to make the procedure and participants in the phases of the study clear the information can be given in a table.
  # The suggestions for medical education and curriculum and, for further research need to be added in the discussion.
  # The limitation about the number of participants has not been mentioned.

• Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
  In abstract, it has been written “a cohort 2 (n=27)” instead of n=47.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'