Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the perspectives of allied health practitioners toward the use of journal clubs as a medium for promoting evidence-based practice: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2011

Reviewer: Patricia McInerney

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses the value of journal clubs, with the aim of comparing two types of journal clubs - one a structured format following the steps of the evidence-based process and the other, journal clubs without a format or process to seeking information. It is a descriptive study within the qualitative paradigm. It presents some interesting findings for those whose responsibility it is to structure, present or offer journal clubs.

Whilst I have no hesitation in recommending acceptance of the paper for publication, there are some corrections that are needed.

Minor essential revisions:
1 - in the abstract (Line 2) it is stated that there are issues that potentially threaten viability - perhaps give one or two examples; under "results" (1st line) it should read "Allied health precatititioners perspectives' ... classified into five ..." and 2nd last line from bottom "... participation in a JC." Under the conclusions, (last line) prcatititers should read practitioners.
2 - under Background 5th line from bottom (p3) should read "... considered vehicles ... have been seen as a mechanism "
3 - 2nd last line (p3) should read " ... for the medical and nursing ..."
4 - pg 7 first line JC should be JCs
5 - pg 7 - 10th line from bottom should read "durations"; 9th line from bottom should read "backgrounds" and 8th line from bottom "AHPs" and 7th line - close brackets after "podiatrists"
6 - pg 9 in q3 to the "unexposed" group - should read " have you been or are you currently ..." and q4 - should read AHPs
7 - p10 line 1 - AHPs; lines 7 and 13 " ... a bachelor's degree .."; line 13 " ... majority had completed .." and line 14 "... completed or are in the process ..."; line 15 delete "into"; line 16 "... AHPs had had exposure ... participating in a JC." Line 17 "Allied health practitioners perspectives' ... classified into ..." and last line on this page AHPs
8 - p11 - line 3 - AHPs
9 - p 11 three-quarter way down page, the authors speak of the "the new
programs" - to which new programs are you referring?
10 - p 13 3rd line from top - "They figured it would be ideal ..."
11 - p 14 1st line - "...results in a blending of ..."); line 7 - delete "to" and line 12 "good thing is, we are given ..."; 3rd line from bottom "go" should read "got"
12 - pg 15 line 2 - discussion should read discussions; line 12 "... practitioners from the unexposed groups ..."; line 15 Limit should read "limits"
13 - pg 17 - three quarter way down page - do you mean providing the JC members?
14 - pg 18 fist line "felt that a one-day EBP ...."; line 9 should read "... recognised time constraints, due to heavy clinical workload, and ..."); line 16 should read "...format for the JC..."
15 - pg 19 line 9 should read "focuses" and line 12 JCs; Line 17 AHPs and line 18 JCs
16 - page 20 line 3 delete "lack of"; line 12 should read ". .. focus group participants... and line 13 include should read "included"
17 - pg 22 line 2 JCs; line 6 - should read "... JC styles on the various allied ..."); and line 7 "...AHPs may have different ..."); line 8 "... with a JC .."; line 11 -AHPs; first line under conclusions - AHPs
18 - pg 23 line 5 - AHPs
19 - please ensure that all tables have headings.
20 - Where numbers are inserted in tables behind concepts, the numbers need to be explained.
21 - Table 2 is confusing because I understood the text to say that both groups found the heavy clinical workload to be a problem - if I am wrong, then please ignore this comment.

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

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.