Reviewer's report

Title: Costs and benefits of interprofessional online education in dermatology

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2011

Reviewer: Janet Tworek

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions - none

Minor compulsory revisions:
1. Please clarify how many cases (or average # of cases) per user. A total of 177 cases is hard to distinguish the level of practice/applied knowledge practice that MDs and nurses undertook.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. RE: You comment that the cost effectiveness of online learning is not widely discussed. You might want to supplement this with concerns from distance learning literature that faculty are not compensated or recognized for the time it takes to create such courses. See Handbook of Distance Education by Moore, chapter 34: Comparing costs of alternative delivery methods by Alistair Inglis.

2. You might also want to discuss economies of scale: is this course sustainable in terms of server hosting, course design costs, faculty time to administer the course, engagement of MDs and nurses over time with the medium/learning tools?

3. Often missing from discussions of eLearning interventions is the curricular design of the course that others may appreciate how you created engagement, practice, knowledge learning, application, evaluation, etc. You describe the elements of the course (e.g. practice cases, # of MCQs, etc but don't describe the philosophy of learning and intended pedagogical approach.

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

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