Reviewer's report

Title: An innovative OSCE Clinical Log station: a quantitative study of its influence on Log use by medical students

Version: 1 Date: 10 September 2012

Reviewer: Erik Driessen

Reviewer's report:

Dear author we are unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until you have responded to the minor compulsory revisions provided by the associate editor. Addressing them will possibly not take a lot of effort, we hope you can submit a revised version soon.

The revisions are:
- If the first paragraph of the background section (page 4) is deleted the introduction becomes more concise without changing the message. The message of the first paragraph is repeated later.
- the argument that portfolios or logs are suited for three situation can do with less than 11 references (page 4)
- remove (ibid) (page 5)
- don't use abbreviations like ppd and gsm.
- is the director of clinical education one of the authors? (page 9)
- in the discussion section on several places the perceptions of students and staff members are presented. What is the status of these? Were the students and teachers interviewed? There is nothing in the method and results section on this. The authors should be careful with reporting views of individuals in this paper and focus on the results and the consequences for theory and practice of their study.
- next to including it in the assessment system other strategies can be used to stimulate the use of the log by students of staff. The most important one is embedding it more in the learning environment of the students, including a form of using the descriptive and the reflective content of the log for coaching the learning of the students.
- what do you mean with: potentially the investment in faculty professional development will have benefits for learners in the vertical continuum of medical education, and faculty themselves (page 15)
- I don't understand the referencing to the Cleveland assessment system as a reference for the benefits of intrinsically being motivated to reflect, opposed to including reflection in the assessment. In the Cleveland system, reflection is included in the assessment. Can you explain this in the text? (page 16)
- Can you also explain how the content of this paper is related to the advice of