Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving teaching on an inpatient pediatrics service: a retrospective analysis of a program change.

Version: 1 Date: 31 July 2012

Reviewer: Amy Fleming

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Question is very clear and well defined. How to improve attending teaching on the pediatric inpatient service as measured by evaluations from residents and medical students
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? methods are appropriate.
3. Are the data sound? yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes excellent summary in the abstract
9. Is the writing acceptable? clear, easy to read, not too long.

I feel that this paper offers an interesting and applicable description of a teaching program to augment inpatient ward based teaching. This could be applied to other universities and stresses the importance of supporting teaching efforts. I think educators would be very happy to have this paper as a reference when they are trying to persuade departments or medical schools to further support clinical teaching efforts. The paper demonstrates not only an increased likelihood that you can recruit teaching faculty more easily, but also showed that the teaching evaluations of the faculty improved.

The writing was very clear and easy to read. I enjoyed reading the paper and this would be an article that I would seek out in the literature.

Major revisions: none needed
Minor Revisions: none needed
Discretionary revisions: none needed

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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