Reviewer's report

Title: Educational Potential of a Virtual Patient System for Caring for Traumatized Patients in Primary Care

Version: 2 Date: 9 May 2013

Reviewer: Jose Gutierrez-Maldonado

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

1.- The educational value of interactive computer simulations with virtual patients is adequately mentioned and some relevant studies are cited, although some others are missing. Additional suggested references are:

doi: 10.1109/ITNG.2010.107


2.- The paper is focused on subjective opinion data. It is interesting to see that this opinion is predominantly positive, although the objective assessment of the learned skills should also be reported.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Even though the pre and post-test questionnaires are described in detail in a previous publication, a wider description than the one provided is also needed in this paper.

2. The specification of the statistical test applied to the results included in table 1 is required.

3. Also, the specification of the statistical test applied to the results included in table 2 is required.

4. Even though there were no significant changes between the pre and post-tests of self-reported motivation to use VP, a deeper discussion of these results is required. In particular, the reduction in post motivation scores in items 9, 11 and 13 seems to show that the VP training was negative in some aspects, mainly because of the high expectatives before the training procedure.

5. Only four references are found in the discussion section, and only one of those references is directly related with the field of virtual patients (and it is a previous study of the same authors). A wider and deeper elaboration of this section is needed, in order to compare the results obtained in this study with other similar studies that can be found in the scientific literature (some of them have been listed in the “Discretionary Revisions” section of this review).

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