Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of Junior Doctor Performance: A validation study

Version: 1 Date: 27 May 2013

Reviewer: Ian Wilson

Reviewer’s report:

this is a well written and important paper which is let down in a couple of areas

major compulsory revisions

1 I do not agree with the authors decision to include "not observed" in the Likert scale scoring. the argument that this may indicate non engagement in the clinical setting is possible, but there are a number of other interpretations possible including the highly likely that the person completing the form has had so little contact that the issue has not been observed. The results at minimum need alternative analysis with "not observed" excluded from the scale.

2 similarly the interpretation that no change in the score across the intern year is attributable to assessors adjusting the scoring against the level of experience is possible but alternatives, including that the instrument is not sensitive enough to pick up these changes needs to be discussed.

Minor essential revisions

3 I am not clear if the reported 5 times a year for the usage of this instrument is applicable Australia wide or just in WA. This needs to be clarified.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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