Reviewer’s report

Title: Does a mandatory clerkship in Geriatric Medicine improve care of subsequent older acute medical patients? A retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2013

Reviewer: Philip Cotton

Reviewer’s report:

The numbers and events are accounted for and the method and results are easy to follow.

Major compulsory revisions/questions that need addressing:
1. what is the impact of a clerk on the CTU team - position, role, influence? how are they perceived? what does the team do with the clerk’s assessment?
2. does this not say as much about the need to train CTU teams to carry out functional assessments? is there an admission checklist that includes functional assessment?
3. why the near 8 year delay in reporting this? did the emerging literature prompt this?
4. what is being done in the curriculum now? will you go back and re-introduce this?

This is a great reminder of the unintended consequences of medical education.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.