Reviewer's report

Title: Medical and pharmacy students' changing perceptions of interprofessional education and practice: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1
Date: 18 December 2013

Reviewer: Daniel Terry

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:

This study provides interesting and informative assessment feedback on the effects of a clinic on medical and pharmacy students' perceptions of interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice.

Changes which are required are as follows:

1. Page 2, paragraph 2, line 3: should read “participation in the IPE experience”
2. Page 2, paragraph 2, line 10: please spell out “AWVs” in first instance
3. Page 3, paragraph 2, line 1: please capitalise the first work “interprofessional”
4. Page 3, paragraph 3, line 3: suggest delete “thought”
5. Page 5, paragraph 3, line 4: change “enrollment/informed” to “enrolment and informed” and check spelling of enrolment
6. Page 8, paragraph 1, line 5: suggest change “It appears from this result that” to “The results indicate that....”
7. Page 10, paragraph 1, line 6: suggest change “perhaps” to “may”
8. Page 11, paragraph 1, line 1: suggest delete “our hope”
9. Page 11, paragraph 1, line 1: suggest reword or delete “and hence would have less room to grow” as not sure what you mean – it doesn’t make sense.
10. Page 11, paragraph 2, line 6: Suggest reword “For the former, it was expected that PS would rate their skills in this area more favorably. It was interesting to note, however, that the margin of difference decreased following the IPE experience, suggesting perhaps that MS perceptions of PS became.... “
11. to
12. “For the former, it was anticipated that PS would rate their skills in this area more favourably. However, the margin of difference decreased following the IPE experience, suggesting that MS perceptions of PS became......”
13. Page 11, paragraph 2, line 13: suggest delete “of their potential”
14. Page 12, paragraph 1, line 4: suggest delete “appears to” and changes suggest to suggests
15. Page 12, paragraph 2, line 3: suggest change “MS/PS” to “MS and PS”
16. Page 12, paragraph 2, line 10: change “our” to “the”
17. Page 13, paragraph 1, line 4: change “our” to “the”
18. Page 13, paragraph 1, line 5-6: states “Furthermore, this study was designed to pilot the 20 items created for this instrument, it does not address the validity and reliability of the instrument.”

I am concerned this statement requires to be amended, as the authors have indicated in another recently published journal article (“Development and Validation of the Student Perceptions of Physician-Pharmacist Interprofessional Clinical Education (SPICE) Instrument” Am J Pharm Educ. 2013 November 12; 77(9): 190. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3831401/) that the instrument, which is referred to as the “SPICE instrument” has undergone reliability and validity testing. Please clarify if this is correct and amend or remove the statement in this manuscript. It will be worthwhile discussing the validity and reliability of the instrument earlier in the methods section, with reference to (citing) the recently published journal article.

Discretionary Revisions:
None

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