Reviewer's report

Title: Medical students as peer tutors: a systematic review.

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Reviewer: Judith Hudson

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This paper now is a well-written review of the limited published literature on peer tutoring in medical education, revealing that tutor outcomes in terms of improved exam performance have not been demonstrated but that it is reported to result in other desirable outcomes for the senior medical students who tutor.

The authors state well the aim of the review and have described well the methods used, and these are appropriate. The table showing a summary of the papers included in the review, and their main features and findings, is useful for the reader. The data reports on contemporary data and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by the data.

The title and abstract accurately convey the findings of the review, and the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting.

The limitations of the work have not really been addressed –this self-reflection on their review would be useful but their clear and systematic process is evident to the reader, given the paucity of literature under review.

Small correction for noting: sentence 1 in the second paragraph of the introduction

“PAL is of interest because of the well documented benefits at several levels. For the institution, PAL can alleviate faculty teaching burden.6 offering…..”

I believe the full stop after burden is not warranted.

JN HUDSON

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 I have no competing interests