Author's response to reviews

Title:A study to investigate the effectiveness of SimMan(R) as an adjunct in teaching preclinical skills to medical students

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To,                                                        31/7/14

The Editorial board

BMC Medical education

The comments have been addressed in a revised manuscript and this letter gives a point-by-point response to the concerns.

***Editorial Comment***

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript. It is much improved and you have responded adequately to the issues raised by the Reviewers. We would be pleased to publish your manuscript if you can attend to the minor revisions listed below. I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript in the near future.

Editor feedback.

There are quite a few typos and awkward grammatical constructions requiring more care with language and a good proof reader. I have included a few examples but these are by no means all. In particular, the writing could be much improved in the revised sections and the whole Discussion to make this a much more readable and enjoyable paper.

The full paper has been proof read by 4 authors who are all native English speaking.

Examples:

Abstract - "Simulation facilitates preclinical medical students to develop clinical skills in a safe environment, but there is currently little evidence on its effectiveness"
Stating that simulation facilitates development of clinical skills is at odds with the rest of the sentence stating that there is little evidence that simulation facilitates development of clinical skills.

Changed to –

“The use of simulation in the learning environment has the potential to support the development of clinical skills in preclinical medical students whilst in a ‘safe’ environment, but currently there is little evidence on its effectiveness”.

Typo - Page 3

"The aim of the study was to explore the role of as an adjunct in peer examination in clinical skills teaching for preclinical medical students."

Changed to-

“The aim of the study was to explore the role of SimMan® as an adjunct to peer examination in the teaching of clinical skills to preclinical medical students.”

Typos page 11

"For ex" - need full words

Changed to- for example

"it was found that graduate entry students when performed on the Manikin"

Changed to –
“it was found that graduate-entry students scored higher or equal to peer examination whilst performing chest examination on the manikin”

"scored higher/ the same when compared to peer examination" and "no shame/ shyness/ inhibitions" - need full sentences.
Changed to-
“scored higher or equal to peer examination”
“there was no shame or shyness or inhibition that may be associated with examining peers or patients.”

"other simulators like Harvey's simulator" - Harvey is the trade name of the simulator.
Changed to Harvey®

Qualitative method description should reflect the results. I can see that data has been coded into themes under the headings of the questions. I can't see what the categories or codes are.
Please state simply what was done.
Changed to –
“From the free text comments, the relevant data was coded into themes for each of the questions. Two authors (MSw and MS) independently coded the data and any differences were then discussed to reach an agreement.”