Reviewer's report

Title: Does The Presence of Medical Trainees Affect The Increased Mortality Noted With Weekend Admission?

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2013

Reviewer: Christopher Wittich

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript attempted to answer the question of whether the presence of resident physicians at a hospital helps to mitigate the effects weekday versus weekend admissions.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The results sections in both the abstract and manuscript need more data. Many times, only p values are reported. The actual data needs to be presented along with the p values.

2. The tertile organization of the number of residents at the hospital may be misleading. At many large hospitals, there are both teaching and nonteaching services. A better way may be the number of residents at a hospital as a function of the number of beds at the hospital. For example, a very large hospital with 27 residents and almost no teaching services would have been in the top tertile. Conversely, a very small hospital 27 residents and only teaching services would not be distinguishable from the prior example.

3. You state in the limitations that you were able to account for comorbidities but not the severity of the presenting illness. Many tertiary hospitals are also teaching hospitals. These hospitals may be more likely to get the "sicker" patients. At a minimum, this needs to be further discussed. At a maximum, this may be a fatal flaw of the study.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.