Reviewer’s report

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

Version: Date: 6 November 2013

Reviewer: Jonathan Bae

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- None

Minor Compulsory Revisions
- There are spelling errors in Table 2 -> Hospice Program, Missing.

Discretionary Revisions
- The actual observed differences in mortality are small. While statistically significant, it is unclear if this has any clinical impact. Would recommend the authors comment on whether and what clinical significance this may have.
- There is a lot of information in Table 3. Would recommend this serve as an addendum/supplement. Would condense to allow authors to highlight the relationships they found most of interest
- Not all residency programs are created equal. Would consider further analysis to analyze the relationship between trainees presence and weekend mortality relative to whether the program is associated with an academic medical center
- I do not believe the relationship between increased weekend mortality and resident trainees implies a lack of supervision. Does the relationship hold when you adjust for staffing levels.
- Would recommend the authors describe areas for future study to explore the relationships they describe (i.e. link between residents, supervision, and weekend mortality)

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