Reviewer's report

Title: Development of the Clinical Learning Evaluation Questionnaire for undergraduate clinical education: factor structure, validity, and reliability study.

Version: 2 Date: 31 August 2013

Reviewer: Danette McKinley

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely done paper detailing the psychometric characteristics of a measure to evaluate student perception of the effectiveness of their clinical rotations.

Major essential revisions

What is important to report in the paper to facilitate the reader's interpretation is how the rating scale was scored. That is, does 3=undecided? I assumed that the higher the mean, the greater the students' level of agreement with the statements, but that wasn't immediately clear.

Also, what were the reliability coefficients with the items deleted from the scale? I understand only three items were deleted, but it would be good to see if the coefficient alpha associated with the scales.

You reported on the characteristics of the sample - do you have any indication that the respondents are representative of the population to which the survey was distributed?

Please consider reporting standardized mean differences as well as the results of the ANOVA so that readers can see whether there are trends that may not be of statistical significance, but are of practical significance.

Minor essential revisions

The view of 'validity' has changed. Validity is no longer a property of an assessment. Rather, we accumulate evidence to support the validity of interpretations we make regarding the results of the assessment. In this investigation, the evidence gathered supports the scoring of the instrument. The authors can refer to 'Criteria for a good assessment ' by Boulet and McKinley, a chapter in 'International Best Practices for Evaluation in the Health Professions', edited by William McGaghie.

Discretionary revisions

When the students reported on the clerkship, were they reporting the last clerkship completed? Since most of the students were in their last year, can it be assumed that most of the sample has completed their required rotations? This
information would be helpful in considering the interpretations regarding the quality of the education program.

The survey is based on student perception of their clerkship experience. Since it seems that motivation and self-awareness were actually intervening variables. Had the authors considered doing factor analysis with structural equation modelling where the construct could be modeled so that these intervening variables could be accounted for?

Can the results be correlated with logbooks (particularly for the 'Cases' factor), so that the variety of cases seen can be analysed as well?

While this research may not be reported in the current article, the issues raised as discretionary revisions could be considered for future research.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.