Reviewer's report

Title: A critical evaluation of the electronic surgical logbook

Version: Date: 14 January 2006

Reviewer: Terry P Clemmer

Reviewer's report:

General: I congratulate the authors for their honesty and willingness to publicly scrutinize the accuracy of their database. This effort is of great importance if the database is to be used to analyze the efficacy and quality of our teaching programs. It is also of great importance to discover the impact policy changes have on our education programs. We all need to heed the warning of how important it is to clean the database before analysis and interpretation of the data proceeds.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached: NONE

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct): NONE

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore): It might help me understand the methodology better is there was a description of the data elements contained in the RAD and that kept by the Regional Advisor for Yorkshire database that was used for collaboration. This could be in text or a table.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'