Reviewer's report

Title: Learners' Decisions for Attending Pediatric Grand Rounds: a qualitative and quantitative study

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2006

Reviewer: Jocelyn Lockyer

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well written study. Dr Dolcourt has approached the study in an innovative way, despite having a relatively small study group for the quantitative portion of the research. The concept map was helpful in illuminating the ideas gleaned from the group interviews. Normally in qualitative work quotations are provided to illuminate the findings. I think the readers would find a few quotations helpful in this study as well—depending on word limitations. In fact, I think the qualitative study is the real strength of the study, not the quantitative analysis. The authors handled the analysis of the quantitative study reasonably well. It is disappointing that of 601 physicians who attend these rounds, only 59 (ie, <10%) responded to the survey. The logic of their groups (1, 2, and 3) escapes me. It would be helpful if that rationale was explained in the methods section.

In discussion, it would probably be helpful to know how they would actually plan to use the data from this study in planning rounds. They provide a quote from a retired MD which seems to be a bit of a distractor unless they see the ultimate role of grand rounds as serving this population. Surely the intent of grand rounds is to improve care by practicing physicians and other providers?

---

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

---

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
For table 1, provide information on who is in each of the groups in the table (through a footnote, possibly).
Provide a rationale for the division of the 59 participants into groups.

---

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Consider adding some quotations from the qualitative to support and strengthen the results and to bring the concept map alive.
Tell us how you will use these data to plan rounds.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.