Reviewer's report

Title: A clinically integrated Curriculum in Evidence-based Medicine for just-in-time learning through on-the-job training: The EU-EBM project.

Version: 2 Date: 19 June 2007

Reviewer: Harold P Lehmann

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a fine approach to teaching EBM, but the paper is very limited in its not having any outcome data.

However, even before that, the course the authors describe sounds like many other courses that have been designed. Yet, they had at least 2 unique opportunities. First, most EBM courses are aimed at physicians in training; here, there was an opportunity to aim at the questions practicing clinicians, and there was an opportunity to check whether or not the standard EBM approach actually addresses their needs. ("PICO" addresses only therapeutic questions; testing, maybe; epidemiology, not at all.) Second, the authors had a unique opportunity to consider the impact of the national delivery of health care and how that might impact the interpretation of the data (either internally or externally (generalizability)).

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

Despite their use of a standard approach to developing a curriculum, the authors do not express their learning objectives with the proper types of words (e.g., "have an understanding" is not the language of a learning objective; "demonstrates understanding by---", is). Furthermore, there are no operationalizable objectives (how would a search be evaluated? "Come up with a decision" can be met by trivially saying "yes" to all new treatments).

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The ebm-unity Web site has not been updated since Sept, 2006, which makes the reviewer worried that the project may not be moving forward.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests