Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of a Food Allergy Education Resource for Primary Care Physicians

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2008

Reviewer: David L Hepner

Reviewer’s report:

Yu and colleagues present a very nice report summarizing the results of a survey identifying the deficiencies in the knowledge, diagnosis and treatment of food allergy by primary care and emergency room physicians. They use this data to develop a teaching program, which is then tested in a number of providers in the same medical fields. The authors are to be commended for presenting very pertinent data in a format that is very easy to read, and provide results that are clear and demonstrated a marked improvement in the knowledge of participants. Strong participant satisfaction led the authors to believe that the program is effective and should be utilized in this group of providers.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 2, abstract, results. Please provide the response rate for the needs assessment survey. In addition, please specify if the participants administered the teaching set came from the same group of physicians that completed the earlier survey.

Page 6, results, first line. Please specify the number of providers that were contacted in order to achieve this number of participants. The reason that it is important to know this number is because, if there were a low percentage of providers that agreed to participate, there may be selection bias with participants with deficiencies in knowledge more likely to participate. If this number is low, then the authors should include this comment under the limitations of the study.

Page 6, results, first line. It is also important to provide the response rate of the survey for the same reason indicated above with individuals with increased knowledge less likely to participate.

Page 7, results, line 14. Please clarify the reason that the percentage of providers that refer patients with possible life threatening food allergy to an allergist is 63% compared to the percentage presented in table 2B, which is 88%.

Page 8, pilot testing of teaching materials, first line. Please specify the percent of providers that agreed to participate in this part of the study. In addition, it would be helpful to know if these participants were also utilized in the first part of the study to develop the survey. Please specify the reason that there was one incomplete test.
Table 1. Please provide examples of "Other Primary Care"

Discretionary Revisions

General comments. Please make it clear that this is nothing more than a descriptive study.

Discussion, overall. Please include the limitations listed above and think carefully about other shortcomings of the study. It is difficult to believe that the study has no other limitations.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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