Reviewer's report

Title: A Survey of Web-Based Training in an Integrated Healthcare Delivery Network: Do Age, Education, Computer Skills or Attitudes Matter?

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2008

Reviewer: Vernon Curran

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

There were some grammatical errors and omissions and the authors should conduct a thorough review to ensure these are corrected.

As well, the conclusions made by the authors are not in fact entirely correct - they suggest that "web-based training...can be used to satisfactorily train...". The authors did not assess or demonstrate that the web-based training product under study had in fact resulted in knowledge gain or behavioral change, so it is not possible to make the inference they do in this statement. Rather, they should state something like "the study findings suggest that web-based training was perceived as a satisfactory mode of learning by an interprofessional group of healthcare providers in (subject y).....". This would need to be changed in the abstract, intro and conclusions.

The authors also suggest that the literature on web-based training in healthcare setting is limited, which in fact is not correct. There is significant literature regarding web-based CME, including a number of review studies on the effects and evaluation of web-based CME (see Chumley-Jones, Curran and Fleet). I would also not agree with the assumptions made by the authors in paragraph 3 under Discussion section "There are many successful case studies....but most of these evaluated students...." (review of web-based CME literature would question this assumption) and "This limits their adoption...." (again more attentive review of web-based CME literature).

I would also be interested in further comments from the authors on how generalizable their findings are to other types of web-based training and subject areas?

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'