Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing competency in Evidence Based Practice: strengths and limitations of current tools in practice.

Version: 1 Date: 21 June 2009

Reviewer: Sharon E Straus

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is clearly written and the author has provided a summary of potential assessment strategies for EBHC skills. To further strengthen the manuscript, the author could consider:

1. Completing a comprehensive review of the literature on this topic. It is not clear how the articles for discussion were selected and it would be useful to have an explicit methods section.

2. Discussing an approach to measuring behaviours and clinical outcomes which are key changes that teachers would want to measure.

3. Mentioning the 5th step in practicing EBHC, how to evaluate/assess the process.

4. Focusing on what is new in the literature. The author may also want to review the framework that was proposed for evaluation in the BMJ 2004 October 30; 329(7473): 1029–1032.

5. Considering the tools that have been used to assess attitudes towards EBHC practice.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'