Reviewer's report

Title: IT-adoption of Clinical Information Systems in Austrian and German Hospitals: Results of a Comparative Survey with a Focus on Nursing

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2009

Reviewer: Dawn Dowding

Reviewer's report:

I thought that this was a clearly explained overview of the survey you carried out across Germany and Austria. You have acknowledged the limitations of the poor response rates - and identify that this may mean that your data provide an over-estimation of IT availability to nurses. I have a few suggestions for revisions:

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Include a translated copy of the questionnaire you used in the survey. The web address provided in the article did not work for me - I had to google to find it. The web pages are in german, and although I could translate them, it was not obvious how I could find the survey instrument. It would be easier for readers to identify what you have asked, if you could find a way of providing an English version of the survey, in an easily accessible format.
2. In the text could you clarify exactly how you defined a nursing information system for the individuals who completed the survey.
3. In a number of places in the text you use the phrase "anamnesis" in relation to nursing documentation - I don't recognise this as a term used by nurses, and wondered if it was actually a misspelling of 'assessment' - however assessment is correctly spelt elsewhere - please check the translation for international readers.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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