Reviewer's report

Title: Integrated Preoperative Care Pathway - A Study of a Regional Electronic Implementation

Version: 2
Date: 5 August 2014

Reviewer: Brian Dixon

Reviewer's report:

In the revised manuscript, the authors have addressed the major issues previously raised by this reviewer. The article provides a thorough examination of the implementation of standardization across preoperative assessment (POA) of patients and an electronic form to support POA for elective surgery in one region within the UK.

In this version, the authors have greatly clarified their methods regarding subject selection and recruitment. Furthermore, they further clarified the relationship of the author(s) to the implementation project being evaluated. The added transparency is appreciated.

Major Compulsory Revisions = NONE

Minor Essential Revisions = NONE

Discretionary Revisions

The revised article further expands the interpretation of the findings in the larger context of sociotechnical systems. Figure 5 is a useful addition to the article and helps clarify how the complex pieces of the "system" fit together. The expanded Discussion section reviews important STS work by Waterson et al., comparing it to the current study. While helpful to the reader, the article would also benefit from incorporating a broader set of STS work by Harrison MI, et al. (2007); Westbrook et al. (2007); and Novak et al. (2013). However, as-is the revised article provides greater linkages to the previous body of knowledge on STS and is therefore acceptable.

The appendices remain useful resources to provide greater detail of both the methods and participant comments. As the article is prepared for publication, the authors may consider how to expand Appendix 2 and reduce the detail provided in the body of the manuscript.

REFERENCES


Westbrook JI, Braithwaite J, Georgiou A, Ampt A, Creswick N, Coiera E, Iedema


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

**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