Reviewer's report

Title: Ambulance officers' use of online clinical evidence

Version: 1 Date: 1 June 2006

Reviewer: ian watt

Reviewer's report:

General
The major weakness of this paper is the low response rate - with only 278 questionnaires being returned. It is stated that 2000 questionnaires were provided for delivery but it is unclear whether this means that there are 2000 ambulance officers in NSW. The implications of this low response rate are not adequately addressed in the discussion.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Much of the information given in the results and discussion is of minor interest to an outside readership and the paper could benefit from a major edit. Numbers as well as percentages should be given when presenting survey results especially since it is unclear how many people responded to specific questions. There are occasions in the discussion and conclusion when the survey results are overinterpreted (eg "the lack of access to CIAP is clearly a major contributing factor to lower use of CIAP - pg 12; "the results of this survey suggest that ambulance officers...are also likely to reap these benefits when given easy access to such resources", pg15). It would be interesting to have the characteristics reported of those respondents who had neither used nor knew of the CIAP.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests