Reviewer's report

Title: Toward Successful Implementation of Electronic Health Records (EHR) in Ambulatory Practice Settings

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2008

Reviewer: Ronald Lagoe

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This reviewer has no major compulsory revisions that would need to be made before a decision on publication can be reached.

This reviewer believes that the topic addressed by the authors is an extremely important one. Interest in the implementation of Electronic Health Records has increased substantially in recent years. The need for additional research concerning this subject, especially in physician offices, has been recognized by the authors.

One of the most critical needs for information concerning the implementation of Electronic Health Records in physician offices concerns the impact of EHRs on small physician offices. Based on intuitive notions concerning economies of scale, it could be suggested that substantial potential for increased efficiency and outcomes of Electronic Health Records may reside in small physician offices. The authors have done a commendable job of providing more information and guidance concerning this subject.

Minor Essential Revisions

The manuscript developed by the authors concerning implementation of Electronic Health Records in small physician offices is well organized and full of useful information. The authors have made an effort to identify studies concerning the implementation of Electronic Health Records in physician offices and to suggest how these studies may relate to small practices. They have also identified barriers to the use of EHRs in physician offices and developed extensive strategies to address these obstacles.

At the same time, the absence of research concerning the specific impact of Electronic Health Records in physician offices continues to be disturbing. The research identified by the authors on this subject is useful, but it is not always clear what parts of this research relate to physician offices in general and what parts of the research relates to small physician offices.

This reviewer suggests that the authors review each of the research studies identified in the article and clearly identify which of them relate to EHR implementation in small physician offices. The familiarity of the authors with
these studies identified in the text suggest that this need not be a lengthy or difficult endeavor.

In addition to this suggestion, there are a few minor grammatical issues that remain in the text. For example, in the first paragraph of the Summary, it is noted that Ambulatory practices are drawn towards (toward) team work etc. The authors need to do one more reading of the text in order to eliminate these errors.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

This reviewer declares that I have no competing interests.