Reviewer's report

Title: Physicians' propensity to collaborate and their attitude towards EBM: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2011

Reviewer: Phil J.M. Heiligers

Reviewer's report:

The subject of this study adds an interesting point in the discussion on organizational models in hospitals. The question is focussed on the basic mechanism which directs the choice of formal and informal interpersonal ties: heterogeneity or homophily.

Minor essential revisions

In general this is a thoroughful study, but on some points I have comments.

In the section Research Methods under Variables
- you mentioned that you added variables based upon prior research. This argument is not appropriate, please argue about the relevance of those extra variables in your study;
- you present the variable ‘physician’s attitude towards EBM’ with a four-answer format: never – rarely-sometimes -often. Why is chosen for this subjective oriented answer, because you could have asked for the number of consulted publications.

In the section Results your explanation and interpretation of the findings in Table 3 is very clear, but Table 3 is not clear at all:
- the table has no title in which the tested relationship is expressed;
- the difference between the dependent variable and the binarized dependent variable is not clear. Please, give in a note beneath the table some explanation.

In the section Discussion one point could be added:
- The question whether homophily mechanisms are more likely to predict exchange of advise and information was conformed. But, the contribution of organizational affiliations is higher than the likelihood of a similar attitude towards EBM (see # and p-values). I think this point should be stressed in the discussion.

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'