Reviewer's report

Title: A critical review of the research literature on Six Sigma, Lean & StuderGroup's Hardwiring Excellence: the need to demonstrate and communicate the effectiveness of transformation strategies in U.S. healthcare

Version: 2 Date: 15 May 2009

Reviewer: Paula Michelle Whitty

Reviewer's report:

With thanks to the authors, who have made all of the amendments I requested. However, I still think that the amendment made to the title and abstract, about the US focus of the work, should be clearer. Please see below.

Minor Essential Revisions

Please amend both title and abstract as follows (amendments in capitals)(or similar):

Title - 'A critical review of the research literature on Six Sigma, Lean & StuderGroup’s Hardwiring Excellence IN THE US:......'

Abstract - Background: U.S. healthcare organizations are confronted with numerous and varied transformational strategies promising improvements along all dimensions of quality and performance. This article examines the peer-reviewed literature FROM THE US for evidence of effectiveness among three current popular transformational strategies: Six Sigma, Lean / Toyota Production System, and Studer’s Hardwiring Excellence.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.