Reviewer’s report

Title: Role models in a preventive program for hand eczema among healthcare workers: a qualitative exploration of their main tasks and associated barriers and facilitators.

Version: 2
Date: 27 March 2015

Reviewer: Christian Apfelbacher

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study investigating how role models perform their role as part of a multifaceted implementation strategy on the prevention of hand eczema, and to identify barriers and facilitators for performing their role. The study population was composed of a diverse sample in terms of gender, workplace and seniority making the study theoretically representative.

Major compulsory revisions

The manuscript is well presented, but fails to provide an accurate account of the methodology used for data analysis. Quoting the study performed by Hooftman et al. (p.6, l.17) is not sufficient. What approach was used to code the data? Thematic content analysis? Interpretative phenomenological analysis? Was a software package used to code the data?

Within the theme “external factors”, several inter-related subthemes are reported, in particular “contact between the role model and his/her colleagues” (p.11), “little response of colleagues” (p.13), “communication between role models” (p.13). These subthemes are so inter-related that they do not really represent different topics. The authors should contemplate if they could merge these into one subtheme.

Minor essential revisions

p.12: “Amount of role models” should be changed to “number of role models”

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.