Reviewer’s report

Title: The developing and evaluation of an electronic tool to assess the effect of undergraduate training in palliative care: the electronic International Medical Education in Palliative Care (IMEP-e) assessment tool.

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Paul Taylor

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well conducted and presented study, with a good rationale for conduct and the methods used. The use of mixed methods is appropriate. Statistical methods and interpretation appear appropriate to the questions being asked, although I am not a statistician and could not comment as to whether further or alternative methods would have been better.

However, there are some changes I would strongly recommend prior to publication.

There are grammatical issues. In particular, some prepositions/conjunctions have been missed or confused (to, the, of).

"There was a smaller sample group within the Y5 cohort due to the wider distribution of the Y5 cohort in clinical placement." - please clarify this. It isn't clear why this contributes to a smaller sample size.

The sample sizes aren't consistent - the flow chart states n=80 for the y5 group, but in-text this is 65

The description of the qualitative methods, in particular the analysis, is somewhat brief. Was software used to analyse the transcript?

The key issue which I think warrants attention is the fact that the qualitative findings have been split between the results and discussion. In particular, the qual findings in the results section are very brief, even allowing for the mixed-methods nature of the study. This disrupts the narrative and makes it hard to follow the findings. A diagram or table might help outline the themes and sub-themes. I would suggest including the qual findings in the results where possible, and reserving the discussion for any aspects of the synthesis of the qual and quant findings.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report
including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal