Reviewer's report

Title: The Transition to Competency-Based Pediatric Training in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2014

Reviewer: Daniel Schumacher

Reviewer's report:

Overall:
This strikes me as a well-written paper that provides a very nice summary of CBME, factors important to consider implementing this in the setting described, and initial benefits attributed to these efforts.

Discussion: For a BMC Medical Education Debate article type, the discussion seems to be quite appropriate as it describes the steps felt to be most instrumental in implementing CBME in a setting with a historically more “traditional” focus and then provides some initial high level outcome data.

Major Compulsory Revision
Discussion: One of the questions I had as I reflected on your data in Tables 1 and 2 is whether you were making other systems changes that could have influenced this as well. For example, was your transition to CBME also at a time when you were implementing a new focus on quality improvement, patient safety, systems efficiency, etc? It might be good to make a note of this where you discuss this data in the “Initial Outcomes in One Hospital” section.

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:
No conflicts/competing interests