Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 31 October 2014

Reviewer: Susan Guralnick

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

Initial Experiences at one hospital section, paragraph 2:
line 170/table 1 - Is this statistically significant? If so, could you say significantly instead of substantially? Have you calculated the statistical significance of the change? Should the limitations mentioned below the table be mentioned here as well?

Summary Paragraph:
The summary sounds like purely a reflection, rather than a summary of findings, reflection and next steps. It needs some commentary on the "success" of the program, the impact it has had, then followed by the goals/next steps that are stated here. Also, this section could use some better transitions. It sounds too much like several serialized and disconnected thoughts.
line 189 - There needs to be some expansion or clarification of this statement about self-reflection.

Discretionary Revisions:

Abstract Summary Paragraph - Some brief clarification of how CBME aligns GME with population healthcare needs would be helpful, otherwise I find this statement confusing.

Background, 1st paragraph:
line 38-39 - same comment as in abstract, it is not obvious to the reader what the alignment is between CBME and GME, and it would be helpful to briefly clarify it here.

"Minor issues not for publication":

Background, 1st paragraph:
line 29 -- recommend "responded" rather than "replied".
line 32 - recommend deleting "For example", and starting the sentence with "The CanMeds model..."
Initial Experiences at one hospital section, paragraph 1:
lines 145-146 - recommend minor change to "...we will provide as a case study the impact of this reform on the oldest and largest..."
line 148 - "exams" should be "examinations"
line 153 - remove comma after season

Background, 2nd paragraph:
line 51 - This statement could use a little explanation as to why this is particularly important in developing countries.

Initial Experiences at one hospital section, paragraph 2:
lines 161-162 - recommend minor change to "Additionally, in mid-2009 Tawam implemented..."

line 168 - recommend delete second "increases" in sentence (it is unnecessary)
line 169 - a "the number of" reported clinically significant...
line 176 - after better patient care recommend adding "as a result of the CBME system."

lines 176-178 - recommend changing this sentence to "More importantly, the experience of providing better patient care as part of their medical training, will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the care our residents will provide as future independent practitioners."

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.