Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of the preparedness of medical graduates for internship responsibilities in district hospitals in Kenya

Version: 2
Date: 15 June 2015

Reviewer: CLAUDIO OWINO

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. On the purposes of the study:
There is need to review/rewrite questions 2 & 3 of the purposes.

• Question 2-The likely clinical and facility conditions that interns are likely to face in district hospitals in Kenya

What exactly are we referring to. To answer this, there should have been a question on the common clinical conditions met at the district hospitals? However from the paper, the investigators came up with groups of common problems/procedures and asked the interns whether they felt competent in dealing with them. This question should be rephrased.

• On the second part of the question, what do we mean by facility conditions? To quote you “the likelihood of a medical graduate training as an intern in a district hospital has significantly increased, yet little is known about the impact and implications of such a shift”.

We probably need a small background on expected facility conditions for adequate internship training in comparison to what is found at the district hospital. You later mention that this was as noted from an observation schedule as described in the Overview of Health System in Kenya. However, no detail is given and we thus have no idea what these important facility conditions are!!! The idea here is that should there be a shortage, they would be taught how to cope with it.

• Question 3: How might the curriculum best prepare the interns for their roles in district hospital settings?
This question is difficult to understand. These interns have been through different curricula (both local & foreign) and their preparation/readiness for internship is what we are asking in question 1. Taking into consideration the findings, this question should try and address the defects in the training curricula noted by both students and their supervisors and how they can be improved i.e What medical education should improve on.

2. Methods
• You mention that 4-8 Supervisors were targeted at each site but only managed
this at 2 sites and the rest had semi-structured interviews. Did they cover all the 4 major disciplines where the interns rotate and what was their experience in internship supervision? We need to know how many were from which disciplines.

3. Discussion

• The discussion needs to be reviewed in line with the objectives/purposes of the research to make better reading. There is a lot of great positive findings and these are brought out in the discussion. However they need to better organized as in answer to the research questions/objectives. That way, it will make more sense to the readers.

• Also looking at the discussion, it might be a good idea to have a fourth question/purpose to cover the areas of motivation, welfare and socio-economic support. From your discussion, this seems a key area and plays a big role in interns performance.

• Interprofessional teamwork, Communities of Practice and Longitudinal continuity of care are introduced in the discussion as ways of improving training but I don’t quite get exactly how and at what point. Internship as it is entails rotations in different disciplines for a period of one year and introducing continuity of care would be difficult.

• In addition, unless necessary, avoid repetition of the results in the discussion.

4. Abstract

The abstract should be reviewed with the results and the discussion aligned to the research objectives.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Line 22, it is transition and not transitions.
2. Lines 35-36 rephrase the sentence. Does not make sense as it is.
3. Line 74, observer and ship is one word.
4. Line 84-86 Assess perceived magnitude of the gap between medical education and the requirements of practice as an intern in a district hospital in Kenya.
5. Line 92, add Competencies/skills
6. Lines 170-171 Grammatical error
7. Line 335 – 337 does not make sense.

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.