Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of clinical reasoning in clinical practice. Observable phenomena that reveal clinical reasoning during history taking of medical students: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 15 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Salman Guraya

Reviewer's report:

- In abstract its not clear whether assessors were provided with a structured checklist or any pre-determined semi semi structured assessment format OR this was kind of global rating
- The literature review in introduction about clinical reasoning and workplace based assessment is inadequate. The authors should add more fuel about the clinical reasoning skills as a whole and then to converge on its component of medical interviewing and history taking skills…their main area of research. At the same time, although the authors have partially touched workplace based assessment but the readers would like to have more information and its strength as compared to the conventional assessment modalities. For the help of the authors, I have provided some articles that they can use to enrich the literature review in introduction;


- No clue when was the study conducted?
- Its not clear about the curriculum details at the research. Do they teach clinical reasoning strand during the undergraduate medical teaching. A brief snapshot of the curriculum would be helpful
- What was the level of expertise of lecturers, if varying expertise among the lecturers, this would not be a reliable assessment.
- Which software was used for data analysis?
- At no point the authors mentioned whether the students were informed about the recording of their encounters with patients or its just a random selection of recorded videos where the recording was done without the knowledge of students. Informing the assesses about the recording events makes a difference!
- Discussion is a mere repetition of results. The authors are urged to interpret the study findings with the available published data to compare and contrast the research 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.
No

**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

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