Reviewer’s report

Title: Paediatric Physiotherapy Curriculum: An Audit and Survey of Australian Entry-level Physiotherapy Programs

Version: 0 Date: 24 Feb 2019

Reviewer: W Bagg

Reviewer's report:

This is a nationwide study of the paediatric learning in a physiotherapy context. I am not a physiotherapist and have no content expertise. My comments therefore relate to study design and meeting educational standards.

This is an important study given the reported lack of consistency of paediatric learning in the physiotherapy context.

All institutions offering physiotherapy in Australia were approached. That all did not participate is disappointing, but not unexpected.

The response rate seems adequate (although perhaps not ideal) and the range of respondents in terms of higher education and clinical experience is likely to be representative.

Removing the non-paediatric physiotherapists for the sensitivity analysis is a good idea.

Line 494 and line 605 I think the authors should be careful what they wish for. Accrediting bodies typically leave individual institutions to decide how to meet the accreditation standards. Requiring accrediting bodies to be too ridged, or prescriptive, will reduce Universities’ autonomy to decide what is important for learning in the local context. One size does not fit all. If guidelines are to be provided with guidelines, they should be "guidelines" not "tramlines". The authors may wish to reflect this dilemma in the discussion.

Line 558 The lack of clinical placements in paediatrics is a significant concern as highlighted by the authors. The paper could address ways to address this shortcoming, including the use of simulated learning opportunities.

Line 667 - developing minimum standards seems essential and the authors may wish to propose a mechanism for doing so, which ensure the engagement of stakeholders.

Minor point
Line 143 "intension" should be "intention"
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.

Unable to assess

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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