Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of an Online Public Health Curriculum for Medical Students: The Public Health Commute

Version: 0 Date: 24 Apr 2019

Reviewer: B Resnick

Reviewer's report:

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This is a great idea - to be more impactful and replicated in other institutions more information is needed. How did the idea for this curriculum originate? Did the medical students ask for it? a request from the hospital? How was the curriculum developed? Who put it together? Was it done with all existing materials or was any original content created? What was the cost (both time and $$), timeline, etc. What is the plan going forward for sustainability? (i.e, is a staff member assigned to continue work on this?)

Other key questions - there as mention of medical educators reviewing the program - who were the reviewers? there was no mention of other partners? Did Harlem hospital engage in this effort at all? Was there a partnership with the NYC health department to develop the Harlem specific data/information? Any public health faculty engaged in the curriculum development?

Undergraduate medical education is mentioned in the background section - do you mean pre-med education? Are the public health requirements for undergraduates referencing the new sections on the MCATs? Or some other requirements? The next paragraph notes, "medical education so not clear if this is now medical school? More details are needed to clarify the current status of public health in medical education both in undergraduate as well as within medical school

Clarify which year is the "critical clinical year" - and again perhaps highlight that this program could be useful at any point medical students are having clinical contact -

How far is Harlem hospital from Columbia medical school? is it a 30 minute trip? This wasn't mentioned  The manuscript title implies this program is for use during the commute - but seems
as if the point should be made that this program is useful and convenient for any medical student regardless of their time to work

How were the students assigned to Harlem Hospital - was it their choice? or were they assigned?

It was mentioned only 21% responded to the initial survey about their experiences at Harlem Hospital - were there any differences between respondents vs. non-respondents?

Do I understand correctly that the pre and post quizzes were only after the students completed all 5 modules? There was no knowledge assessment of each module? If this is correct this should be noted as a limitation, along with the other limitations noted - Additionally, how many students started the program, but did not complete it? This should be noted

Are there more specific plans as to how this effort will be expanded? It was mentioned that it will be made available to all students in Columbia affiliated hospitals - but are those hospitals only in the NYC area? Will the population specific information for the local neighborhoods be a part of this expansion?

How will the evaluation be done?

Would like to see the conclusion expanded to include implications for expanding public health education for medical students more broadly not just at Columbia and the potential impacts this might have in bridging medical practice and public health - perhaps could touch on how this aligns with many ongoing efforts - e.g., expansion of population health emphasis in medical institutions and shift from fee for service to value based payment models

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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