Reviewer’s report

Title: Operating room first case start times: a metric to assess systems-based practice milestones?

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
GENERAL COMMENTS:

The authors describe an interesting and novel analysis investigating factors influencing surgery start-times from a resident perspective. Given the substantial complex factors that influence this and the limited variables accounted for as part of this study at a single-centre, the results should be interpreted cautiously. Nonetheless, the authors acknowledge the limitations of this approach, and their analysis demonstrates some interesting findings and identifies areas for further research to build on these.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

I have some comments and questions for the authors:

1) Given the retrospective nature of the database, how was this validated? e.g. case ascertainment

2) How were time points recorded and the accuracy/error assessed? e.g. manual entry by nursing staff?

3) Surgical and anesthetic staff were identified, but did nursing teams/leaders contribute to the results presented?

4) Notwithstanding the cases excluded, how did case mix vary between lists and teams, and did this influence the results presented?

5) From this work, can the authors speculate what the other 81% of variation might be attributable to?

6) There are some minor typos e.g. pg 3/line 15 'efficacy' should be efficiency?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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