Reviewer's report

Title: The IASP Pain curriculum for undergraduate allied health professionals: educators defining competence level using Dublin Descriptors.

Version: 1 Date: 17 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Julia Paul

Reviewer's report:

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Introduction

This study describes the evaluation of each item of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) mandatory interprofessional undergraduate pain curriculum. The evaluation was done by 22 pain experts who considered each item for content and competency level.

Merits

The manuscript is clearly written and would interest educators working on interprofessional education at graduate as well as undergraduate levels. As pointed out in the manuscript, determining a shared competency level should help the process of determining educational outcomes.

Critique

Information about how the curriculum is mandatory (such as in lines 57-61 on page 3) would be helpful in determining the significance of the project. The mandatory nature of the curriculum is mentioned in line 83 on page 4 but is not explained. Who has determined that the IASP curriculum is mandatory for undergraduates?
Some rationale regarding the decision to have the lecturers' opinions (Panel 1) shared with the experts (Panel 2) would be helpful. It may have been appropriate to allow the opinions of the international pain experts (Panel 2) to influence the responses of the pain lecturers (Panel 1) or to have no influence of one group upon the other.

Additional Comments

Please review the list of abbreviations included on page 15. "FEY" and "IEP" are not consistent with the abbreviations included in the text.

Further discussion regarding what will be done with the excluded items would be helpful. For example, it is concerning that content regarding interventions for persons with substance use disorders is excluded, as nurses and others with undergraduate degrees will be providing care to such individuals.

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.

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

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