Reviewer's report

Title: Latent Variable Modeling and Its Implications for Institutional Review Board Review: Variables that Delay the Reviewing Process

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Reviewer: Jaranit Kaewkungwal

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The manuscript is interesting and employs quite different approach in looking at the IRB approval issue. It is presenting in logical sequence. Two major comments are as follow:

1. Fig 2 which shows the main study results is not clear and questionable. If the statistics presented in the model are standardized estimates - how come there are values that are higher than +1 and/or less than -1. The factor loadings and the path coefficients should not be like this. The researchers should also show whether/which path coefficients or factor loadings within the SEM are statistically significant or not. Looking at the estimated values, it seems that not all estimates are significant as some coefficients are very low - say 0.01. Moreover, on some lines (paths) there are two numbers of coefficients - which it is unlikely to have two estimates?

2. Fig 1 should be just conceptual construct of the SEM model. There should be no statistics regarding Chi-square or p-value because there is no test of model here. These statistics of model fit should be on Fig 2.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

none