Reviewer's report

Title: Level of awareness of Saudi medical students of the internet-based health-related information seeking and developing to support health services

Version: 1 Date: 24 Apr 2020

Reviewer's report:

The responses have helped clarify certain issues and have raised others.

New query:
The paper does not address all aspects of eHealth. Telemedicine has not been included. As such, the title is misleading and should be changed to reflect this.

New query:
The absence of telemedicine in the survey is now acknowledged as the final limitation of the study. This shortcoming should be mentioned in the introduction or in the methods, pointing out that the survey was not designed to include telemedicine. The absence of telemedicine is unfortunate as clinical practice is what the students are training for.

Previous Query:
Regarding the definition of eHealth
Response:
The paragraph on the definitions of e-health was revised with all new definitions added in a sequential manner. The references were revised accordingly.

New query:
The authors have cited several definitions of eHealth, some of which are stipulative. What was the definition of eHealth used for the purpose of this study? It was clearly not the WHO's all-encompassing definition. As the survey used was that of Alkhatlan et al, and their definition of eHealth was "E-health refers to internet-based health care and information delivery" was this the definition was used? Whatever it was, it should be stated. If this was the definition, are the EMRs, PACS and RIS at the various hospitals' Internet-based?

New query
Additional information has been added to the last sentence of the Background. The references are all from 2010 and 2011. What is the current status? Does the paper by Alsharano et al 2019 not have more recent data?

New query
No mention is made of which years of study the students were in. The multiple regression analysis showed that those with more knowledge had better practice score. Does more knowledge relate to the score for knowledge or the year of study? If the former, does the score for knowledge relate to the year of study? Additional analysis of the data to differentiate responses of those in clinical years who would have exposure to EMRs and those in pre-clinical years would add value.
New query:
The wording in the second sentence of the second paragraph of the results causes confusion: "With regard to the definition of e-health, the majority of students responded correctly to 11 statements, and incorrectly to 2 statements; they incorrectly agreed that e-health is "patient examination through the use of internet" (65%) and "organization of health care for patients, including surgical operations, via the internet" (58.6%)." The problem is with "incorrectly agreed". It would be clearer to say, "...responded correctly to 11 statements, and incorrectly to 2 statements; with 65% and 59.6% of students respectively thinking that "patient examination through the use of internet" and "organization of health care for patients, including surgical operations, via the internet" did not constitute e-health".

The study may be useful for curricular changes related to EMR or computer training but provides nothing about IT use for clinical medicine, i.e. telemedicine.

There are still spelling errors and in several places two decimal places are still presented.

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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