Reviewer's report

Title: The Critical Elements of Effective Academic-Practice Partnerships: A Framework Derived from a Case Study of the Launch Year of the Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy

Version: 4 Date: 27 June 2014

Reviewer: Susan Swider

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions: From methods, it appears you are looking at factors influencing success, and the factors identified are also the criteria for success? Ex increase in students as goal, and also as influencing factors? Doesn't make sense; please clarify use of Outputs as influencing factors. It appears as if you are saying programs that achieved their goals were more likely to be successful achieving their goals. Please explain that aspect of critical factors analysis.

Discretionary Revisions: editorial note-was the goal to increase faculty by 5FTE for every 20 new students? Seems very high-perhaps clarify?

Overall excellent look at factors that influenced partnership success in first year; will be important work as a basis for further study of academic practice partnerships.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.