Reviewer’s report

Title: A Clinical Pathway for the Management of Difficult Venous Access

Version: 0 Date: 25 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Micheal Mugerwa

Reviewer’s report:

Title:

The title has few words and adequately describe the contents of the manuscript.

Background:

It is clear and well organized given that it addresses the study problem at global and then later local context elaborately.

Methodology:

The study design used is not precisely stated in the study design section.

In the statistical analysis section, the author should state the associated confidence intervals for all estimates and level of significance used in the interpretation of the study findings. Software used during analysis not stated. The author should edit - Wilcoxon rank signed test to 'Wilcoxon signed-rank test'.

Results:

Refer to page 8. The author reports that, "The median number of attempts by other clinicians before referral was 2(IQR 2, 4, p<0.001),……". The quoted p-value does not match with the one reported in Table 1. Similarly, the author should state whether the findings showed a statistical significance or not since using the median alone might be misleading to the reader.

What is the meaning of the p-value in Table 1 and Table 2 and what association is it related to?

The author should indicate whether the findings showed statistical significance for the presented result referring to; "The average time for an ultrasound guided cannulation by the AHSCT was 13.6 minutes(SD 6.0)"

The author did not vividly show how they dealt with potential confounders and how these might have affected the interpretation of the findings.
The above affects the interpretation of the findings in the discussion section since some findings that are not statistically significant are reported as 'effective', may be the author should define the threshold for the measure of 'effective'.

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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