Reviewer's report

Title: Revitalizing physical assessment in undergraduate nursing education - what skills are important to learn, and how are these skills applied during clinical rotation? A cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 31 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Melanie Birks

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this interesting paper. There are a few matters that require attention, most of which are indicated on the returned manuscript. In particular:

- There are a number of grammatical errors; I attempted to point these out but ceased to do so after the first couple of pages. I recommend an extensive edit.

- It appears that the content of nursing programs in respect of physical assessment skills in Norway differs from universities in other parts of the world. I would recommend including some reference to international educational practices to give context.

- There are some inconsistencies in respect of the study methods - there is mention in later section of the paper of MCQs relating to barriers to use of physical assessment skills and also reference to a mixed years focus group, neither of which are referred to in the Study Design section.

- The analysis of the focus group data is weak; I encourage the authors to review this data and present it in a collated and/or abstracted form, such as a content or thematic analysis. The use of quotations may be valuable to illustrate participants' perspectives.

The paper is an interesting one and makes some important points. Attention to the above, however, would strengthen the impact of this work.

I wish the authors all the best with the revisions.
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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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