Reviewer’s report

Title: One size does not fit all: A qualitative content analysis of the importance of existing quality improvement capacity in the implementation of Releasing Time to Care: The Productive Ward™ in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Version: 3 Date: 14 October 2014

Reviewer: Louise Parker

Reviewer’s report:

I only have one suggestion for the authors. Although I understand that they did not design the Lean Intervention, in the interest of through scholarship I strongly suggest that the authors provide a few sentences with references on the controversy surrounding Lean Management. It could be as minimal as something on the order of the following:

It is beyond the scope of this paper to provide an extensive analysis of the Lean construct but it is important to note that there have been critiques about whether Lean represents new contribution or is merely a reframing of existing quality improvement techniques. Additionally, there are concerns about the extent to which Lean actually improves performance, particularly within complex environments such as healthcare (e.g., Näslund, 2008). The central focus of this study, however, was to analyze the implementation of a particular government mandate program based on Lean principles.

Here is one citation but I am sure the others can find others that would be relevant:


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

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