Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding the discriminant factors that influence the adoption and use of clinical communities of practice: the ECOPIH case

Version: 2 Date: 8 September 2014

Reviewer: Michael Rigby

Reviewer's report:

This is a useful piece of work, deserving publication. However, the authors assume more prior knowledge than is reasonable, and also miss out some important issues.

In my view these all fall into the Compulsory Revisions category.

1. The acronym 'ECOPIH' is never explained in the text, only in the list of Abbreviations. It should be explained in the early text.

2. 'Communities of Practice' is a young term, and many readers will not yet be adequately familiar with this concept. Though the authors cite a reference, the term and concept should be explained in about two sentences in the text.

3. The Propositions P1 thought to P4 are brought in suddenly without explanation. The core rationale of the means of enquiry should be explained for the non-expert reader.

4. Table 2 gives respondent population profiles, but only as percentages. Numbers as well as percentages are necessary.

5. The authors give no analysis of how representative the respondents are of the invited population. This is a crucial omission. Consideration by key factors including profession, age etc. is essential.

6. Also, but more difficult, is there any indication as to whether respondents are more likely to be high users, or conversely, sceptics?

7. The term 'cost' is used as a discriminant factor. But does this refer to cash cost as perceived by the respondents, or resource costs particularly (their) time? Time (their own in particular) and money (organisational) are very different costs, and will have different degrees of personal motivation.

8. It would appear that this is a closed Community of Practice. Is this a factor?

This paper should also be reviewed by a competent statistician.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.