Author's response to reviews

Title: A method for measuring productivity and encouraging the practice of research in hospitals: development and feasibility

Authors:

Caterina Caminiti (ccaminiti@ao.pr.it)
Elisa Iezzi (eiezzi@ao.pr.it)
Caterina Ghetti (cghetti@ao.pr.it)
Gianluigi De' Angelis (gianluigi.deangelis@unipr.it)
Carlo Ferrari (ferraric@ao.pr.it)

Version: 2
Date: 25 February 2015

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

I am submitting to your attention the paper entitled “A method for measuring productivity and encouraging the practice of research in hospitals: development and feasibility”.

This paper reports the development of a method to measure research performance, and the findings of its implementation at a large Italian University Hospital. The need for this study stems from the fact that only a minority of clinicians participates in research, and that research involvement is rarely acknowledged and considered in resource allocation decisions. It is therefore urgent to devise a simple approach enabling to measure research activities, and give them proper recognition, as is the case with all other institutional activities. A few different approaches to measure research performance are reported in the literature, however they are either very complex to use, or they restrict their evaluation to bibliometric and citation parameters.

The innovative aspect of the approach we propose is that it is simple to use, but at the same time also includes in the assessment “hidden” research activities, such as guideline preparation, peer-reviewing, etc., which are essential to ensure high-quality patient care.

I believe that this work may be of interest to readers of BMC Health Services Research, and that publication of this report in an international, authoritative journal as yours would greatly contribute to encourage other institutions to implement this method, and other teams to further research in this field. I therefore hope you will consider our manuscript for publication.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely

Caterina Caminiti