Reviewer's report

Title: The Research Activities of Ontario's Large Community Acute Care Hospitals: A Scoping Review

Version: 0 Date: 02 May 2017

Reviewer: Michèle Preyde

Reviewer's report:

The authors have prepared an informative article on the publication records of professionals affiliated with large community hospitals (LCH). The manuscript was very well-written. This research endeavour may be considered to one avenue for assessing research activity and perchance knowledge uptake. I offer some comments that I hope the authors find helpful.

The abstract could be strengthened with the inclusion of a rationale for the study.

There is a great deal of variability of research support available to individuals between large community hospitals and between individuals within the same hospital. The inclusion of the research support and culture in LCH would improve understanding of the issue. Also, the authors main rationale seems to be that there is emerging evidence that the patients of institutions that participation in research "experience better process of care and improved outcomes" and threats to the validity of this research could be stated (such as professionals in institutions with better patient outcomes may be more willing to engage in research than those with poor outcomes, and Rosenthal's file drawer problem). In addition, there has been progression toward greater attention and awareness of evidence-based practice, and there are means at the fingertips of health professionals (e.g., Up-to-date.com) to use the best available evidence when at the patient's bedside. The way research funding is allocated (e.g., who sets priorities and how are they set?) should be described in the introduction so that the conclusion about the need for democratization of funding is anchored in the study.

In the results the search results are presented; however, this section is missing key information such as the reason for removing publications and that the final sample comprised 798 publications (according to the Figure) and not the 1 049 according to the text.

The authors reported that they intend to interview the LCH authors to verify their findings and interpretations, and adding these authors' perspectives would enhance confidence in these findings.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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