Reviewer’s report

Title: Critical Success Factors for the successful initiation of Lean in public hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal: A factor analysis and Structural Equation Modelling study

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Jane Kerr

Reviewer's report:

Congratulations on writing a very interesting and topical article, which I have no doubt will contribute significantly to improved efficiency and improved strategic management of KZN hospitals.

When referring to data please use 'data were' and NOT 'data was'

I do however find the lack of an ethics section within the body of the manuscript a major flaw in the manuscript. Did the Managers sign consent forms? how did you maintain confidentiality and anonymity? How did you actually collect the data from the managers? I did not see any information related to this? How did you perform the random sampling of the managers? What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria? It is my opinion that this details needs inclusion please. It is not sufficient to make only the broad statements which you have made. Other researchers may wish to replicate this study in other Provinces, and they do not have sufficient data to do this.

I also find the use of a secondary reference disturbing in a study at the high research level I believe that this study is.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable
**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal