Reviewer’s report

Title: Implementation and evaluation of a Project ECHO telementoring program for the Namibian HIV workforce

Version: 0 Date: 31 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Roxanna Pebdani

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article. This is a very important subject, as support for clinical workers in multiple (distant) areas is essential. The literature review provides good context for the project (location, history on project ECHO and project ECHO in Namibia). Please provide the context for the research - what data is there on professional isolation, peer learning, distance based CPD, etc?

Methods
Please add headings to structure your methods section
Please provide a bit of information about the participants surveyed in your methods section
Perhaps include a list of the topics covered in the CPD sessions for context
Why did you use Wilcoxon signed rank instead of paired t-test?
Who analysed the qualitative data and how? How was that data both collected and analysed?

Results
In table 1, you note that "others" also had significant score changes - can you please clarify who "other" includes?
Also in table 1 you report a p value of 1.00 for pharmacists with 6-28 CPD credits, please correct
Please include further quotes to demonstrate themes in your discussion of qualitative analysis - quotes can and should be included in the description of the results, not just the table

Discussion
Please connect your results to the existing research literature. For example, is this reduced isolation common in virtual trainings such as this (you discuss this later, but also please add when you first mention professional isolation)? What does the research say about peer-to-peer learning? Your discussion section also seems to serve as a "best practices" in implementation of your project ECHO - this would be more easily read with headings to describe and space out the different sections of the paper. Alternately, this information is very grounded in existing literature and would be well served to be moved into the introduction.

What an exciting development of a hugely important project - thank you for sharing your research on such an important topic!

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

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

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