Reviewer's report

Title: Practice Change Toward Better Adherence to Evidence-Based Treatment of Early Dental Decay in the National Dental PBRN

Version: 2
Date: 3 September 2014

Reviewer: Eleftherios Kaklamanos

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be complimented on their efforts toward better description of the intervention and the statistical procedures.

However, I am not sure that my major concern has been adequately addressed. The authors on their revised paper state that “This study used observational diagnostic and treatment data”. The term “observational” implies only clinical assessment? The use of radiographs, in combination with meticulous examination of well-illuminated, thoroughly cleaned and dry teeth, increases the accuracy of caries correct caries assessment.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

It should be clarified in the text whether caries diagnosis was set after clinical examination only or radiographic control was performed as well. In case of lack of concurrent radiographic control, the limitations of the current work should be discussed and the exact background of the intervention should be reflected in both title and abstract. For example, under such conditions of data gathering, one cannot talk about “Adherence to Evidence-Based Treatment of Early Dental Decay”. Evidence based treatment can be based only on an as possible accurate diagnosis of each condition.

Furthermore, I would suggest that the term “pre-carious” is changed to “early caries” in the text.

Other comments:

After inspecting the Supplement 2 Table A1 Codes, I noticed that sealants were categorized in the restoration group of codes. Sealants are primarily used for prevention. Under which conditions were sealants used for treatment?

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