Reviewer’s report

Title: Hospital organizational context and delivery of evidence-based stroke care: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Janet Long

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors,

This was a study looking at associations between organisational culture (measured using the ACT) and quality indicators of stroke management across hospitals with stroke units in Queensland. Strengths of the study are the large number of hospitals involved, that all MD clinical staff were surveyed, and the responses could be linked to concurrently collected process outcome data. I am happy to recommend that this paper be accepted. It is well written with a clear structure and accompanying graphics. I just have a few comments that you may wish to consider.

Introduction 2nd paragraph. Would be helpful to say more exactly what organisational culture is rather than what it isn't. Later when you discuss the choice of ACT again a sentence giving examples of the type of things it measures as "modifiable features of culture" would have been helpful. I was interested to know if factors had actually been modified successfully in other ACT studies - would strengthen your choice of the tool if it had been done.

Methods are beautifully written but I'll admit that I didn't follow it all at the first reading. Things I didn't pick up on at first were that there were different versions of the survey according to professions (a separate clear statement of this would help), and you didn't know how many staff were working in each unit (thinking about the inability to calculate response rate). The latter is not surprising given the impressive spread of hospitals included but makes it easier to follow to know this. Were researchers not present at the meetings where the surveys were administered?

Results: Stats are exemplary and I followed your reasoning throughout. A few uncomfortable decisions that needed to be made but all well justified.

Discussion: Word limits notwithstanding, I was hoping you would unpack the notion of modifiable factors in the ACT and suggest ways say, social capital might be working in the units here and could be changed. I would have welcomed even a sentence or two expanding on this.

Typo in 'PARIHS' in the caption for Table 1

Typo in Table 2 extra decimal place for "Staff are familiar with stroke protocols"

I look forward to the next piece of work your group publishes.
Best wishes,

JL

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