Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating processes of care and outcomes of children in Hospital (EPOCH): Protocol of a multi-center cluster randomized trial

Version: 1 Date: 31 October 2014

Reviewer: Daniel L Levin

Reviewer’s report:

GENERAL

The manuscript describes in detail the process of developing a large clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of utilizing an early response team for preventing cardiac arrest and complications in hospitalized pediatric patients. The project is quite ambitious seeking to enroll 100,000 patients hospitalized for 400,000 patient-days in 22 hospitals utilizing a cluster design.

This is an important work for those who wish to perform studies like this and for those who will be interested in evaluating this study when it is complete.

It is very detailed and complete.

MAJOR REVISIONS: none

MINOR REVISIONS:

The authors flip flop back and forth using the proper pleural form for the word "data" which is pleural and improper form, the singular. For example, it is used properly as the pleural form in the CONFLICT of INTEREST section, 4th paragraph, line 7, .."data are correct..." and LIMITATIONS of EPOCH, paragraph lines 10-11"... acquisition of these data for...." However, it is used improperly in several other places, 1), Sample Size and assumptions, para 2, line 1; Data from 4 paediatric hospitals in Ontario indicates......" (should be indicate), 2). Results, para 2, line 2, "...data is..." (should be data are). 3, Conflict of Interest, para 6, line 1, "....the data and its..." (should be the data and their). 4), Discussion, para 1, line 1, "...Preliminary data suggests that..." (should be Preliminary data suggest that) PLEASE BE BOTH CORRECT AND CONSISTENT.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS: although I think I understand the reason for this, the Tables are unusual. They look more like the information usually presented in an appendix. Please look at this and think about if there is a better way to present the information.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field