

Table 4. Author Responses to a Revise and Resubmit Letter

September 27, 2005

Brent C. Williams, MD, MPH

Deputy Editor, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*

RE: Manuscript # 1586

Dear Dr. Williams,

Thank you for your preliminary acceptance of our manuscript entitled, “Mastery Learning of Advanced Cardiac Life Support Skills by Internal Medicine Residents Using Simulation Technology and Deliberate Practice.” In this letter we have responded to all of your comments as well as those of each of the three reviewers.

Editor’s Comments

- 1) **Mastery vs. competence.** The issue of the use of terms “mastery” and “competence” has been defined in the introduction on page 6.

...

- 4) Table 1 has been shortened as per your instructions

...

- 8) **Translate regression coefficients in plain language.** We have added a sentence to the text on page 14. On average, each additional 15 minutes of practice time . . .

Reviewer 1 Comments

- 1) **Timeline of the study is unclear. Over what period of time were the Educational sessions and posttests conducted? Did the time vary among the learners?** We have clarified the time for testing and training on page 8 under Procedure

...

- 4) **Participant sample size is less than ideal.** We agree with this statement but believe that the study conclusions are valid. To enlarge our sample size, enrollment of further groups of residents is underway at our institution.

Reviewer 2 Comments

...

- 4) **Methods. The authors might consider clarifying whether the post-test scenarios were the same or were modified in order to clarify potential biases.** To minimize this issue, we used two outcome measures: Post test A and Post test B. This is described in the results section in the middle paragraph, page 13.

...

- 7) **Assessment of changes in patient care outcomes, ACLS guidelines and long-term retention of skill.** As these are underway, we have added the following sentence at the bottom of page 17. “Further work at our institution is ongoing to expand the mastery model to include other required procedures, document compliance with published guidelines in actual ACLS events, and assess long term retention of skill following initial simulator training.”

Reviewer 3 Comments

- 2) **Why did 8 residents not reach mastery? Was it cognitive, procedure related or both?** The answer to this is not known. However, the residents easily reached the [minimum passing standards] MPSs with minimal additional training.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this paper.

Diane B. Wayne, MD

Corresponding Author