

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** A critical review of the research literature on Six Sigma, Lean & StuderGroup's Hardwiring Excellence: the need to demonstrate and communicate the effectiveness of transformation strategies in U.S. healthcare

**Version: 2 Date:** 15 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Paula Michelle Whitty

### **Reviewer's report:**

With thanks to the authors, who have made all of the amendments I requested. However, I still think that the amendment made to the title and abstract, about the US focus of the work, should be clearer. Please see below.

#### Minor Essential Revisions

Please amend both title and abstract as follows (amendments in capitals)(or similar):

Title - 'A critical review of the research literature on Six Sigma, Lean & StuderGroup's Hardwiring Excellence IN THE US:.....'

Abstract - Background: U.S. healthcare organizations are confronted with numerous and varied transformational strategies promising improvements along all dimensions of quality and performance. This article examines the peer-reviewed literature FROM THE US for evidence of effectiveness among three current popular transformational strategies: Six Sigma, Lean / Toyota Production System, and Studer's Hardwiring Excellence.

**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.