Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying context factors explaining physician’s low performance on communication assessment: an explorative study in general practice

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Reviewer: marcel reinders

Reviewer’s report:

First of all, I would like to complement the authors with their latest version of the manuscript ‘Identifying context factors explaining physicians’ low performance in communication assessment’. I do appreciate the thoroughness of their revision of the manuscript, and the way they worked out answers into great detail to my questions or suggestions. I think the article reads well now. There are only two discretionary revisions I would like to mention, which are:

1. Background, second paragraph, is still not clear to me. The authors mention that there are various explanations for low scores on communication skills, and mention 2 (or 3 actually). The authors do not elaborate on the first ones (transfer, and long term effects), but only discuss the last one “secondly,.....” in this article. I would like to suggest something like: ‘the transfer of skills from institute to practice is hampered because generic skills are taught, while in reality, GPs need to adjust their approach constantly’.

2. Discussion, second paragraph, is difficult to comprehend, at least for me, because I am confused about goals and communication behaviour/skills. It also lacks fluency, because every sentence is about goals and their relation to communication somehow. Please clarify.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.