Reviewer’s report

Title: Primary Health Services at District Level in South Africa: A Critique of the Primary Health Care Approach

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2012

Reviewer: John Gillies

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Major:
The paper gives a good overview of the issues surrounding primary health care in Sub Saharan Africa and SA in particular.
However, it is weaker on the argument for moving forward with PHC.

Specific points:
the distinction between primary care and primary health care is not clear and needs expansion. I was not clear on the relationship between this para and the subsequent text on revitalisation.
oral health services are mentioned. Should this be ‘all health services’?
I would have liked more detail on the ‘how’ of revitalisation as well as the what’. The critique is quite high level and would benefit from more specifics.
The World Health Assembly Declaration of 2009 on Primary Health Care was important in refining the relevance of PHC. This should also be reflected in the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.