Reviewer's report

Title: Primary Health Care contribution to improve health outcomes in Bogota-Colombia: A longitudinal ecological analysis

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2012

Reviewer: Ian Cameron

Reviewer's report:

I have no compulsory or minor essential revisions

In discretionary revisions I would have liked more on how the Bogota experience fitted into the overall national experience of health reform. My memory is that there was major opposition to the reforms, especially from procedural specialists who saw a possible loss of income from the contributory scheme (perhaps born out by the insurance coverage to the contributory regimen Table 1). I would also liked to have seen some analysis of effects on the indigenous health services. Again my memory is that this was positive for health outcomes.

Nevertheless, this is an excellent paper that contributes to the discussion on primary health care, especially in lower socioeconomic groups. In the discussion it attempts to take into account possible confounders such as overall change in social determinants of health. The paper discusses comparisons with PHC changes in other countries in Africa and South America. This is particularly relevant for Brazil which had major health reform in a similar time, but in a vastly different political context.

Maybe for a future article the political context of change, both nationally in Colombia, and internationally across South America could be expanded on with reference to health outcome and health professional access statistics

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