Reviewer’s report

Title: Care for post-stroke patients at Malaysian public health centres: Self-reported practices of Family Medicine Specialists

Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2013

Reviewer: Koen Putman

Reviewer’s report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions
  The subject of this manuscript is relevant in the matter of how to improve service delivery in developing countries within a given context of limited resources and inequality in access to care. The methodology used to collect data in the health centres seem appropriate with adequate measures to ensure the quality of the questionnaire. My major comments concern the selection of data reported and the analyses performed with the available data.

  The results reported in this manuscript are part of a larger survey. In total 7 domains were addressed in the questionnaire. The results on only two domains are reported. It is unclear why these two domains were selected (i.e. current service provision and expectations of improvement of care). In the context of the subject, also the results on 'knowledge on stroke care management' as well as on 'comprehensive stroke care' would have been relevant to report. In my opinion it would make the manuscript stronger if all aspects (current provision, knowledge, comprehensive stroke care and expectations) would have been discussed in one paper.

  The quantitative analyses are limited to descriptive statistics only (frequencies, means, medians) and no bivariate analyses were conducted. The latter however, may hold interesting information about certain subgroups of practices facing particular problems (e.g. urban practices may encounter more problems on referral compared to rural practices, etc). These kinds of refined analyses will provide more in-depth knowledge on where particular gaps currently are which in their own turn provide more accurate clues in prioritizing actions and recommendations.

Minor Essential Revisions

  The use of capitals should be carefully revised.
  Table 2: provide frequencies of the reported obstacles
  Table 3 is difficult to read. Two different lists are reported next to each other.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

**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