Reviewer's report

Title: Family physician views about primary care reform in Ontario: a postal questionnaire

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2004

Reviewer: J. Michael Paterson

Reviewer's report:

The point I was trying to make with comment A3 is that a sampling frame based on Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) membership systematically excludes General Practitioners (physicians who are not certified in Family Medicine, but who are eligible to participate in the reforms). While it is true that the number of general practitioners is shrinking, they remain an important fraction of Ontario's primary care physicians (35%?) and may hold views different from those of certified family doctors (who are younger, required to participate in CME, etc.). The authors should acknowledge this source of bias. They comment on the fact that their respondents are younger, more likely to be female, etc. than Ontario participants in the National Workforce Survey; but fail to mention that members of the OCFP are younger, more likely to be female, etc. than Ontario primary care physicians as a whole. In our study of one Ontario PCR pilot site,<ref 10 in the latest draft> certificants of the College of Family Physicians of Canada were no more likely to join the pilot project than non-certificants, but Hamilton has proportionally far fewer general practitioners than the province as a whole.

The other concerns have been addressed to my satisfaction.