Reviewer's report

Title: Access to healthcare and alternative health-seeking strategies among undocumented migrants in Denmark

Version: 2 Date: 10 March 2011

Reviewer: Sónia Dias

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well-written and organized paper which deals with the extremely important issue of undocumented migrants’ access to healthcare services. It provides valuable insights on barriers to healthcare and alternative health-seeking strategies and presents useful information for healthcare policy and practice. This paper is worthy of publication after some minor editing revisions.

In the Introduction section, authors present the European and Danish legal background on undocumented migrants’ access to healthcare in a clear and very complete manner. This section could be enriched by adding some more evidence on barriers in access to services and health-seeking behaviour among this migrant group – example: reference to studies conducted in the European context.

Also, it would be useful to provide some more background information on the undocumented migrant population in Denmark: within the estimated number of undocumented residents (1000-5000), what are the most common nationalities?

In the Methods section, it is good that authors have expressed their ethical concerns with research on irregular migration.

Authors should explain why the participants’ group was chosen within the Nepali community - is this the largest migrant community in Denmark? Both recruitment processes should be described in more detail.

In the Results section, the sentence “Others stressors included pressure from relatives...” should be replaced by “Other stressors included pressure from relatives...” In the sentence “Another participant said that it was not possible for undocumented migrants to access the Danish healthcare system but, contrary to Participant 4” – did you mean Participant 1? It seemed that authors were comparing the replies of Participants 1 and 5.

In the Discussion section, the meaning of the sentence “Contact with authorities may be connected to uncertainties about being denied care and the possible risk of deportation” is not clear. Please clarify the sentence.

Although authors refer as a limitation the fact that “the study population consisted of small, heterogeneous group of South Asian migrants”, in the Discussion section it should be further debated in what extent the findings may be specific to
that particular group.

Best regards,

Sónia Dias

**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.