Reviewer’s report

Title: Validation of Public Health Competencies and Impact Variables for Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Version: 4 Date: 5 October 2013

Reviewer: Elizabeth Weist

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General Points

Besides my point about the fact that a number of the competencies and a few of the impact variables are double-, triple-, or even quadruple-barreled, thus conflating the potential measurement of the variables in practice, the study is well-conceptualized. The use of competencies assessed alongside workplace impact variables, and the use of both experts (inclusive of academe and employers) and alumni drawn into the validation process, is a useful means of checking education against its value/place in the field.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Figure 1 on p. 3 is not necessary. I don’t see how the schematic of the process adds any value to the very simple and logical ordering of the steps in the authors’ work.
2. “Centers for Disease Control” needs “and Prevention” on p. 5
3. In Table 2 on p. 12:
   a. The parenthetical reference should be “as sent to alumni” (not “send”)
   b. “Public Health” does not need to be capitalized throughout. It can be lower-case.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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