Reviewer's report

Title: Why the MDGs need Good Governance in Pharmaceutical Systems to Promote Global Health

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Reviewer: Joel Lexchin

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading this manuscript as it is not only well written but addresses a topic in international pharmaceutical policy that has received relatively little attention. My feeling is that strengthening of access to good quality pharmaceuticals can only come about if there is good governance is improved.

Minor Essential Revisions

The first sentence in the Abstract does not read well and needs to be rewritten.

On page 7 when the authors talk about global spending it is not clear if the $20 and $70 billion amounts refer to the annual increase in global spending in those years.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors could strengthen their case for a stronger system of pharmaceutical governance if they presented a couple of case histories where poor governance and/or corruption had significant negative outcomes.

The term counterfeit needs to be defined since the term can apply to medicines that violate intellectual property rights provisions or medicines that are deliberately falsified. I assume that the authors are referring to the latter but they need to make that clear.

The authors need to make it clear whether they are talking about corruption in the public sphere and the private sector or just the former. If primarily the former then at least some mention needs to made of corruption in the private sector.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.