Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring health systems research and its influence on policy processes in low income countries

Version: 5 Date: 29 May 2007

Reviewer: Doug Martin

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper describes a conceptual framework for knowledge translation of health systems research in low-income countries. It may become useful once it is tested and refined.

The authors have a good grasp of the complexity of the policy process.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) For a non-expert, the paper is very difficult to read. The authors use many technical and abstract terms and the grammar is consistently passive. The message gets lost in the verbiage. Please revise accordingly.

2) Concrete examples would help most readers. Please insert concrete examples that illustrate the concepts -- research/policy interactions that have worked and even those that haven't would help.

3) Please describe how you are going to test and refine the conceptual framework to make it a useful tool.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.