Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Doctors’ personal health care choices: a cross sectional survey in a mixed public/private setting

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 24 January 2008

**Reviewer:** Olaf G Aasland

**Reviewer’s report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Two or three important parameters are missing in this article:

1. There is no definition of the dependent variable of the study: "when you were last ill (physically or emotionally)", hence it is impossible to distinguish between illnesses/conditions where self-treatment might be the natural choice and those where it is necessary to seek help.

2. The fact that there are no data on the kind of illness/condition is grossly limiting the value of this study (even if there are some indications in the type of specialist consulted, question 2)

3. Neither is there any indication of whether the "last illness" occurred one or ten years ago. Question 5 taps information on the time since last consultation, which is not necessarily the same. Anyway, the responses from question 5 are not reported as far as I can see.

My conclusion is therefore that this study is of limited interest outside Hong Kong.

**What next?:** Reject because too small an advance to publish

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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