Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of tobacco counseling among Hispanic physicians in the US: a cross-sectional survey study

Version: 2 Date: 31 October 2007

Reviewer: Corinne G Husten

Reviewer’s report:

General

The authors have addressed the comments from my original review. The methods used are much clearer, as are the limitations. The reader should now be able to judge the importance and representativeness of the study.

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

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

Page 10, 1st para, line 2: it appears that the 36% refers to medications, so I suggest using that term rather than "treatment". Counseling, cessation programs, behavior change programs are also treatments.

Page 10, 1st para, line 4: Please distinguish "behavior change programs" from cessation programs. Cessation programs use behavioral change strategies, so it unclear what the distinction is between these two responses.

Page 10, para 2, line 1: Explicitly define the measures defined "smoking counseling"? Was it the activities listed in the paragraph that precedes this sentence? Did they have to do any of them to be considered to have provided counseling? In particular, did asking about exposure to SHS constitute counseling?

Page 15, para 2, line 3-4: What does "their effectiveness" refer to? formal program? protocols? While protocols might change physician behavior, I'm not sure how their use of formal programs would change their behavior.

Page 15, para 3, last lines: The definition of Hispanic and how participants reported their ethnicity belongs in the methods section.

Page 16, para 2, line 10: Do you have data on how many Hispanic physicians working in the US are foreign born? The overall number may not apply to specific racial/ethnic groups.
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I would strongly encourage the author to use "correlates" rather than "determinants" throughout the paper since the term "determinants" has a bit of a causal sense to it.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.