Reviewer's report

Title: A description of physical therapist competency in musculoskeletal medicine

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2005

Reviewer: Anthony D Woolf

Reviewer's report:

General

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

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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)

The paper has been revised to take in the reviewers comments. It is now presented as a survey of a selected sample and its findings must be interpreted with that caveat. The findings based on a knowledge test cannot be used to argue for changing ways of delivering care, as in the Conclusion - evidence of better patient outcomes is required.

The conclusion suggests direct comparison of results between therapists and physicians etc but it is the literature that has been compared. The opening sentence needs to be changed to state "... in musculoskeletal medicine than previously reported for medical students ...."

In the background the authors state that the WHO states that training programmes are inadequate. This in fact was the views of the authors in a paper published in the WHO Bulletin and is not the published view of the WHO.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'