Reviewer’s report

Title: The use of Traditional Medicine by Ghanaians in Canada

Version: 1 Date: 21 November 2007

Reviewer: Isaac Luginaah

Reviewer’s report:

General

This paper describes the perceptions and use of traditional medicine by Ghanaians in Canada. As such it deals with an interesting topic that will of relevance to the readers of this journal. It is clearly written and suitably structured, although there are inconsistencies here and there. I liked the fact that the authors used mixed methods as a way of getting at both the use and perceptions of traditional medicine.

What is missing is this paper is the wider review and engagement of the literature on traditional medicine (this is presented as definitions in two short paragraphs on page 4). If there is no literature in the African context (of course there is), what about elsewhere and how does this inform the current study? Furthermore, I assume that after interviewing 513 respondents, there should a rich data set to explore more rigorously the factors determining the use of traditional medicine, yet the authors chose to rely on simple cross-tabs instead some multivariate analysis.

Due to the importance of this topic and the fact that the study was conducted in Africa, I would urge the authors to make the following revisions:

- Include a more detailed review of the literature on the use of traditional medicine
- Beyond immigrant acculturation, include informative section that describes the challenges of the Canadian Health Care System that may be pushing immigrants to traditional medicine.

Use the above in the methodological deliberations as well as in the analysis and discussion of the findings.

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

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

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'