Reviewer's report

Title: Cultural competency of health-care providers in a Swiss University Hospital: Self-assessed cross-cultural skillfulness in a cross-sectional study

Version: 1
Date: 7 November 2013

Reviewer: Janneke Noordman

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the authors:
Interesting and relevant paper. I have a couple of questions and comments, see below. I hope my comments will help you to improve the paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- Method, measures- independent variable and covariates, and Tables: Why did you not include age of the providers as a demographic factor? This could have influenced your outcomes.

Minor Essential Revisions:
- Introduction, end second paragraph and third paragraph. You state that you conducted a baseline survey and used the CCCS tool. This should not be part of the introduction, but belongs in the method section.
- Introduction: last sentence, first paragraph. I don’t know exactly what you mean by the sentence: “By educating providers to develop patient-centered approaches, which may compensate for barriers that hinder patients from fully accessing the benefits of health care”. Please explain or rewrite.
- Method, general survey instrument. You could explain more about which items you took from the validated survey tool and which one you changed/added (referring to the Tables). Also more information about pre-testing and finalizing is useful.
- Results: You state that the effect of provider role with higher skillfulness associated with physicians remained significant even after adjusting for possible explanatory factors. Which explanatory factors do you mean?
- Discussion, limitations. You state that: In further analyses, we found no significant differences between the final sample and the recruitment pool in gender and provider role, representative of the general provider population. I don’t understand the meaning of this sentence.
- Conclusion, point 3: Could you be more specific about which discovered gaps the health institutions should address?

Discretionary Revisions:
- Acknowledgement: shouldn’t you acknowledge the participants, pre-testers and
the cultural competence experts in Switzerland and the US for finalizing the questionnaire?

**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