Reviewer's report

Title: Inapplicability of advanced directives in a paternalistic setting: the case of a post-communist health system

Version: 2 Date: 3 February 2011

Reviewer: Leslie Whetstine

Reviewer's report:

I. Major compulsory revisions:
A. The article raises some interesting problems faced in Albania. A key question that isn't addressed is how can the state afford to sustain moribund patients indefinitely? How does this impact the distribution of scarce resources to other citizens if end of life care delivery is open ended?
B. Is the authors' conclusion that doctors must flout the current legal system, which the authors have claimed is legally hazardous? What strategies do they suggest for doing this?
C. In the discussion of "amanet" it is unclear under what conditions it will, in some cases, pertain to end of life decisions as opposed to others.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 have no competing interests.