Author's response to reviews

Title: Empirical studies on informal patient payments for health care services: A critical review of research methods and instruments

Authors:

Tetiana Stepurko (chernysh@ukma.kiev.ua)
Milena Pavlova (M.Pavlova@BEOZ.unimaas.nl)
Irena Gryga (griga@ukma.kiev.ua)
Wim Groot (w.groot@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Version: 3 Date: 12 May 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
May 12, 2010

Tetiana Stepurko  
School of Public Health  
Kyiv-Mohyla Academy  
Skovorody street 2,  
Kiev, Ukraine 04070  
+380 67 757 96 99  
+380 44 425 65 80  
chernysh@ukma.kiev.ua

Dear Dr Shipley,

I am enclosing herewith our new version of manuscript titled: “Empirical studies on informal patient payments for health care services: A systematic critical review of research methods and instruments”. Authors: Tetiana Stepurko, Milena Pavlova, Irena Gryga and Wim Groot. On behalf of the authors, I would like to submit this revised version of manuscript to your journal.

We thank you for very comprehensive and detailed letter. With this letter we would like to explain all changes that were made in our manuscript. Regarding your first note, we confirm that our paper is a systematic review that is reflected in the title of the manuscript now. The PRISMA guideline link you indicated was very helpful and we believe that our paper contains all of the touched items. Additionally, the structure of the paper was reconsidered. Thus, the first page was added and now it includes all recommended details. Three new sections were added in the end of the existing parts: Competing interests, Authors’ contribution, and Acknowledgement. Moreover, we improved some parts of the manuscript. Specifically, we divided the abstract into 5 parts; presentation of methods in the abstract now includes data sources; systematic review is indicated as a method of the research.

Below we provide answers on your questions about financial competing interests:

Q: In the past five years have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? Is such an organization financing this manuscript (including the article-processing charge)?
A: No, we do not receive funding from any organization that may gain from the publication of the manuscript.

Q: Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
A: No, we do not.

Q: Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
A: No, we do not apply for any patents.

Q: Do you have any other financial competing interests?
A: No, we do not have.
Q: Non-financial competing interests: are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, academic, ideological, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript?
A: No, we do not see any non-financial competing interests.

We are very grateful for the interest in our research.

Sincerely,

Tetiana Stepurko