Author's response to reviews

Title: Health-related rehabilitation services: assessing the global supply of and need for human resources

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Author's response to reviews:

We wish to thank the reviewers for their thoughtful and constructive comments on the earlier draft of our manuscript. In response, we have made a number of revisions (main changes highlighted in yellow).

*REVIEWER 1: Alice Aiken.
-No revisions specified.

*REVIEWER 2: Tracy Comans.
-Minor grammatical edits were made to the “Background” section and elsewhere as recommended (e.g. consistency in spelling of country name, use of punctuation).
-The figures were re-done and saved in higher resolution format. Legends have been included for listing countries included where appropriate, with only outliers and/or countries singled out for discussion specified on the graphs. Also, the line was removed from Figure 6. (However, all countries were kept in Figure 1 so readers have the full list, as data by regions are presented in other figures.)
-We have specified the allied occupations for which data were included for Australia. (Please note the difference in interpretation for results from Australia between Figure 1 and Figure 6 is due to high physician density, rather than high numbers of allied occupations.)

*REVIEWER 3: Susan Gargett.
-We have edited the manuscript for consistence of terminology in terms of “need” versus “demand” (in favour of the former), and for avoidance of the term “context” where it may lend to confusion. Minor grammatical errors have been corrected.
-Details have been added in the “Methods” section on the means of determination of “need” for rehabilitation personnel and on the statistical approach. We have tempered our interpretation of the coefficient of determination signifying the strength of a relationship.
-Please note that we are referring in this manuscript to “physiatrists” (physicians specialized in rehabilitation medicine) and not “psychiatrists” (specialized in
mental health). Since this term seems to be less well known, we have clarified
the definition in the Methods section. We have already noted that many other
categories of health professionals have not been included here due to paucity of
internationally comparable data, but have specified this case refers also to
dieticians.

- We have commented on the limited coverage of data on allied health
professions among high income countries, and specified that the six countries
included in Figure 2 are the only ones for which we found published data. We
have included references highlighting efforts that should lead to improved data
availability for future studies.

- We have emphasized the limitation of (lack of) timeliness, as well as (lack of)
information on current practice in rehabilitation services in some cases in
interpreting the results.

*OTHER EDITS:

- References have been double-checked, updated as needed, and reformatted to
meet the journal’s requirements.

- Figures have been saved in higher resolution and reformatted to meet the
journal’s requirements.

- The table has been reformatted to meet the journal’s requirements.