Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 10 July 2011

Reviewer: Tracy Comans

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article with a well posed question and a solid methodology. Unfortunately the data available is of varying quality with some quite poor data. This should not preclude publication however as the authors have adequately described the limitations and highlighted this as important in developing better data collection and reporting in the area of human resources in the future. Human resources for rehabilitation are being increasingly viewed as important for the developing world and this article will assist in benchmarking adequate resources for countries.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  Nil

- Minor Essential Revisions

Background
1. para 1 line 3 – should read “in improving” or “to improve”
2. para 3 line 4 – “forecast gaps”

Work on figures
3. All figures are somewhat blurred and a higher quality resolution picture would be appreciated.
4. Figure 1 is too lengthy. Some of the later countries may be able to be combined into regions for easier viewing.
5. Figures 3 and 4 have only a few countries points identified. The other points are not. It is unclear why these countries were chosen for identification. Please identify all countries by way of a legend. Or if it is only important to show these countries then remove the other points.
6. Figure six has a very arbitrary line of best fit drawn. It does not make a lot of sense to draw a line through these points as it has no predictive value.
7. It seems strange that in Figure 1 Australia has a relatively low proportion of allied health per 10,000 (about 5) but in figure 6 Australia has a high proportion of physicians and physiotherapists (about 30). This does not make sense to me.
How is this discrepancy possible?

- Discretionary Revisions
8. Check spelling of Cameroon
9. For instance should be followed by a comma

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 I have no competing interests