**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Mapping private sector pharmacies and their characteristics in Ujjain district, Central India.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 September 2011

**Reviewer:** Subal C Basak

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. I offer the following comments/suggestions.

1. The title of the paper may be changed to “Mapping private pharmacies and their…..” Accordingly the authors may use private pharmacy in stead of private sector pharmacy throughout the paper.

2. The figures in the abstract need to be same (exact figure) as that of results.

3. It would be of interest to the reader to be provided with more information about private pharmacies in the background section.

4. ‘Clientele’ was mentioned in Table 2 title and ‘Client’ in many places. Consider using uniform word.

5. Reconsider using the word(s) ‘pharmacy/drug store’ and ‘retail pharmacy’. My suggestion would be only ‘pharmacy’ in the former and ‘private pharmacy’ in the latter.

6. Describe how interviews were conducted and what kind of information that were searched for. Was it structured or semi-structured interview? How many of the interviewees were pharmacists (qualified pharmacists). Furthermore, formal qualifications in pharmacy and qualified persons should be explained in methodology section with reference.

7. Reconsider using the word ‘stand alone’ pharmacy. Alternative term may be ‘individually owned pharmacy’.

8. Please discuss the problems which arise as a result of low percentage of qualified pharmacist involves in dispensing medicines.

9. State the basis of selection of tracer drugs.

10. The reference numbers 14, 30 and 37 have first author “Basak S”. The correct is “Basak SC”.

11. Reference numbers 26, 27, are to be provided with online source.

12. Describe the limitations of the study.

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

**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 declare that I have no competing interest