Reviewer's report

Title: Motives for early retirement of self-employed GPs in the Netherlands: a comparison of two time periods

Version: 2 Date: 10 October 2012

Reviewer: Mirko Noordegraaf

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Motives for early retirement of self-employed GP’s in The Netherlands

2nd review

* This MS is clearly improved. Previous criticisms have been dealt with; many revisions have been made. The text is more focused, better composed, and has clearer conclusions.

* There are only one or two issues that might are still rather weakly developed:

- First, the emphasis on work load appears early in the text, especially related to research question 4. Why this emphasis? It is part of an (implicit) research problem, represents an assumption on explanations (namely that work load affects motives), and directs prescriptions (work load reduction etc). The importance and meaning of work load should be introduced more clearly and supported by better arguments.

- There are many measures for many variables, including subjective work load. How about objective work load? Shouldn’t this be given an explicit role, especially as it plays a role later in the text?

- As far as prescriptions are concerned, work load reduction – how? And especially, how can we (policies, GP’s, etc.) affect objective and subjective work loads, as well as their relation. Must we reduce objective work load to reduce subjective work load? Or can we find ways (education etc.) to reduce subjective work load without reducing objective work load (i.e., can we find ways to improve GP’s competencies to deal with work load?)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 that I have no competing interests'