Reviewer's report

Title: Why do health workers in rural Tanzania prefer public sector employment?

Version: 2 Date: 19 February 2012

Reviewer: Amy Hagopian

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is an improvement over the previous one. Especially the methods section. The results first paragraph is much better.

I would have really appreciated a cover letter that specifically addressed each recommendation for improvement--was the suggestion accepted (and how), rejected, or modified? The general cover letter was not at all helpful. Editors should work with authors to ensure the response cover letter itemizes the response to each reviewer.

A number of the issues I asked authors to clarify have simply disappeared.

The whole concept of what patients preferred went away, but one can still guess, because of the better availability of equipment and supplies in the private sector. So now we are just ducking the conundrum issue (patients prefer private sector, workers prefer public sector)?

There is no discussion of the issue of health workers holding 2nd jobs in the private sector when they are public sector employees--can we just ignore that? I should have brought that up in my first review, but authors should still acknowledge this.

There are still acronyms in the tables not defined. Table 3 title is confusing. Now the tables are all about methods, though--what happened to the pension information?

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