Reviewer's report

Title: Health Care Experiences of U.S. Retirees Living in Mexico and Panama: a Qualitative Study

Version: 2 Date: 9 April 2013

Reviewer: Brian Gushulak

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions - None

Minor Essential Revisions - None

Discretionary Revisions

1. I notice the manuscript is silent on the topic of what has become known as Medical Tourism. Many of the drivers of Medical Tourism are similar to the positive local health care factors described in the study and there is an increasing body of data on the subject. Reference to this topic would compliment the paper.

2. Many of the issues discussed in the manuscript are common to other nations with large expatriate populations and there is a reasonable amount of literature that has looked the provision of health care for long staying expatriate populations in Europe for example (large numbers of British and German expats in Spain, Portugal, Greece). Some of those references would both compliment the paper and expand its global relevance.

3. On a couple very minor points it might be worth noting some of the public health risks associated with the provision of medical care in less regulated environments, in the Public Health Context. Some of the costs and bureaucracy that are a component of health care in highly industrialized nations are related to ensuring the mitigation and management of small but significant risks. Many of these risks, examples, infection control in medical settings, the adulteration or counterfeiting of drugs, testing and safety of drugs and medical equipment; are not often seen or appreciated by the consumer or patient. Yet they have real and in some cases measurable impact. Once again in context some words in the discussion of the findings would expand the scope of the paper.

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 have no competing interests