Reviewer's report

Title: Does the perception of fairness and standard of care in the health system depend on the field of study? - Results of an empirical analysis

Version: 2 Date: 19 October 2013

Reviewer: Samia Hurst

Reviewer's report:

This is a carefully crafted paper on an interesting topic. It contains a few methodological imprecisions, however, which make an assessment of the results difficult. Moreover, the authors probably planned an exploratory study given their hypotheses. Based on their results, it is now uncertain what this study truly adds. I would encourage them to clarify both of these points.

Major comments:

1) What was the response rate and how might it have affected the results?
2) Why was the 10% significance level selected? I may be unaccustomed to this presentation format, but it seems high.
3) In the different groups studies here, knowledge of the health system on the one hand, and knowledge on theories of justice on the other are both likely to be affected by the studied discipline. How would the authors know whether it is greater or lesser knowledge of the health system, or different views on what fairness requires, that underpinned a difference in the perception of fairness? And where there is no difference in the perception of fairness, how can the authors exclude that there actually is a difference in views of fairness, but that a co-existing difference in knowledge on the health system cancels it out?

Minor comments:

1) What was the rational for grouping philosophy and religion students into one category?
2) Please avoid confusing language such as ‘have a better perception of the standard of care’: this can mean either a more favorable (this is probably your intent) or a more accurate one.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests