Reviewer's report

Title: Pharmacies as providers of expanded health services for people who inject drugs: A review of the legal and policy framework in six countries

Version: 2 Date: 6 December 2013

Reviewer: Elizabeth Costenbader

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Discretionary Revisions Suggested

General Comments for the Author:
1. Overall I think this is a very interesting, timely and useful study. That said I felt the Discussion section was disappointing both in its failure to reflect on what can be learned and shared across these sites and contexts as well as to summarize the learning in terms of which level of challenges appear to be greatest in which locations.

Additional Specific Comments

Methods
2. It would be of interest to the reader to know why these particular eight different sites were selected for this study.

Results
3. On page 7, the manuscript references for the first time a “buy study” and a “purchase test” study but there is no description provided of what exactly these types of studies consist of nor whether they were explicitly part of this feasibility study or separate undertakings.
4. On the top of page 9, in the sentence that reads “Several sites require special training and certification” it is unclear in what location(s) this sentence is referring to.
5. The final paragraph of the results section is presumably focused on barriers to pharmacies providing health information. As such it is confusing to have the sentence about abscess treatment in San Francisco in this paragraph. It would seem that sentence should be moved the paragraph above that addresses abscess treatment.

Discussion
6. The Discussion section reflects broadly on efforts that are needed to overcome the challenges but seems to miss an opportunity to reflect on what can be learned and shared across these sites and contexts as well on how differences in the different epidemics and social contexts affect the potential for pharmacies in different locations. While it is true that the paper is focusing on a population with similar needs and behaviors across contexts, the sites included in this analysis
reflect a broad spectrum of social, legal and policy contexts. In light of the site differences uncovered, it would have been valuable to highlight what level of challenges (i.e., macro-, meso- or micro-) appear to be greatest in each location.

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

**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.