Reviewer's report

Title: How Does Burnout Affect Physician Productivity? A Systematic Literature Review

Version: 3
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Reviewer: Adriana Baban

Reviewer's report:

The review addresses a topic of much interest, the impact of burnout on physicians' productivity. The findings point to the fact that there is still little empirical work conducted on the matter, and that much of the studies conducted use a cross-sectional design. The paper is well organized and it is relevant for the special number on burnout in hospital settings.

Some small issues are discussed below and some suggestions are offered.

The theoretical background makes a fair introduction to the topic of burnout among physicians. The article would benefit if the topic of productivity in hospital settings was also shortly discussed, and some details were given about the criteria used in operationalizing productivity for this study. Some information are presented in the list containing the search words, but a short introduction of the construct would be of help.

The theoretical grounding of the review could be expanded by presenting the relevant literature on the relations between burnout and each of the four outcomes included in the analysis. Examples of such articles:


The methodology is appropriate for a systematic review and it is clearly presented. There is an ambiguity concerning the number of papers that qualified for review in the end. On page 7, the first paragraph refers to 5 articles, while the second paragraph refers to 4 articles. Some specifications about what qualified as a “validated measure of burnout” would be relevant in this section.

I recommend the exclusion of Table 1 and shortly present the information regarding the search words in the text.

Results are also clearly presented, but some issues should be addressed. On
Results presented in column 8 of Table 2 are confusing given that in some cases mean scores of burnout among physicians reported, while in others percentages of physicians with low, medium and high levels of burnout are presented. Reorganizing this information should be considered.

Discussions are robust and well organized. The authors present the implications of their findings and point to the gaps that should be address by future research.

**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