Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 17 June 2014

Reviewer: Ulla Walter

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors address a study of high interest. They want to answer the question “how does burnout affect physicians productivity”. Therefore they include different types of outcome. (without looking at the mechanism in-depth).

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The methods are appropriate and well described. The authors use the recommended guidelines.

Specific comments:
The inclusion and exclusion criteria should be explicitly pointed out. The search period and the limitation to English language journals are mentioned twice. Please, add the month (12/2012).

Inter-rater reliability: Kappa (?) should be mentioned. Is quality assessment the only subheading? That is a little bit confusing. It is unclear if the quality assessment was done by two reviewers as well. Additionally, the authors have made a hand search. But the results were not mentioned later.

3. Are the data sound? 4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Please, add some more statistical details as well as information about the included physicians (e.g. years of professional experience, socio-demographic data)
P 8: the divergent results of Soler et al. and Siu et al. should be placed in the introductory or in the discussion.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The focus of the discussion lies mainly on limitations. The types of bias should be mentioned. The problematic of outcome measurement could be discussed in more detail.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Main in/exclusion criteria should be added.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
I am not a native speaker, but is well understandable.