Reviewer’s report

Title: Priority Setting in the Provincial Health Services Authority: survey of key decision makers

Version: 2  Date: 6 March 2007

Reviewer: Søren Holm

Reviewer’s report:

General

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. For the non-Canadian reader the nature of the PHSA as described on page 2 is not clear. The following issues need to be explained: What services is the PHSA responsible for and why are these services delivered at the provincial level? How is the PHSA funded, and how are funds for health care in general raised in British Columbia?

2. If the PHSA is relatively unique as claimed on page 2, it can't be a great surprise that "..., this is the first time that they [these parameters]have been noted in the context of a provincial health authority..." and it does not add to the originality of the work.

3. The ”Limitations” section on page 11 could probably be deleted, apart from the first sentence. It is quite clear from the article as a whole what the other limitations are.

4. In the ”Transferability” section on page 11 it would be good if the authors could say something about transferability to US type systems.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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