Reviewer’s report

Title: Is networking different with doctors working part-time? Differences in social networks of part-time and full-time doctors

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2008

Reviewer: Margaret Kilmartin

Reviewer’s report:

1 Discretionary Revision. This interesting paper is well written and the questions well defined. However, the subject is dealt with in a very complex manner by considering both individuals and teams. This result is a paper that is lengthy and at times difficult for the reader to easily digest. Dividing the paper into two may have been a simpler way of communicating the study to readers.

2 Major Compulsory Revision. The methods are appropriate and described in some detail but a clear description of the questionnaire and the interviews process appears to be missing. There is also some question regarding how the analysis of questionnaire and interviews were performed for individual participants and or teams. Concise clear description on these points would enhance the readers’ understanding of how the study was performed and confirm that the data is sound or not likely to be sound.

3 Major Compulsory Revision. The number of hours worked by part-time doctors was stated to be sometimes 40 hours. If the number of hours worked by part-time doctors was close to the number of hours worked by doctors working full-time, this may have been a confounding factor and should be addressed by discussion in the limitations of the study.

4 References were appropriate and the abstract clearly describes the study.

5. Minor Essential Revision. Further consideration to the following terms or words should be given: trustful ?feedback and “social capital” arguments a FEW? other conditions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.