Reviewer's report

Title: A study of the number of physicians registered in Jamaica and their countries of training.

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Reviewer: errol walrond

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Review for Biomedical central script 2000599681
A study of the number of physicians registered in Jamaica and their countries of training.
Jennifer Knight-Madden

I think the paper is publishable with the correction of typographical, spelling and other such suggestions as are made on the returned text.

The subject of the study is an important one and within the restraints of financing, the author has employed a macro analysis as well as a more detailed examination of a randomly chosen sample. The data is credible for the most part and supports the general conclusions of the author.

The study demonstrates that the Medical Council list of registered medical practitioners in Jamaica contains practitioners who have migrated or died, and therefore inflates the numbers who are practising. The study also illustrates that the listing of practitioners as specialists by the Medical council of Jamaica, markedly under-represents the number of practising specialists.

The study is an important one in that accurate knowledge of health manpower is important for planning as well as comparative statistical analysis. In addition, in countries like Jamaica where a CME requirement has been introduced for re-licensing, an accurate follow-up on registrants is necessary if the law is not to be flouted and rendered useless. In countries where resources do not allow a yearly tracing of all practitioners, perhaps the methodology used in part in the study, of an intensive enquiry into a sample of registrants, may prove useful to demonstrate the degree to which the list accurately reflects the number of medical practitioners practising in a country.

Prof. E.R. Walrond.

3/27/2008
I will send e-mail attachments of the article with suggested corrections and my report with my signature

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests

E. Walrond