Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of response format for clinical vignettes on reporting quality of physician practice

Version: 1 Date: 9 November 2008

Reviewer: Emilio Filippucci

Reviewer’s report:

This is a study focusing on assessing the physician performances using three clinical vignette-based survey response formats. It mainly conveys the expected result that the open-ended questionnaire is considered the “gold standard” despite closed-ended questionnaires may provide more accurate data in clinical practice.

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

The only aspect to clarify is the method adopted to formulate the deceptive items. This is important because according to the specific deceptive items used in the closed-ended questionnaire the results may be different. A comment should be added in the discussion on this aspect.

- Minor Essential Revisions
I miss the launch of table 1 in the text.

- Discretionary Revisions
The aims should not be repeated in the first paragraph of the discussion.

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