Author's response to reviews

Title: Governance in Health Systems: towards a new framework for assessment

Authors:

Inez Mikkelsen-Lopez (i.mikkelsen-lopez@unibas.ch)
Kaspar Wyss (kaspar.wyss@unibas.ch)
Don de Savigny (d.deSavigny@unibas.ch)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,
I am re-submitting a research paper titled ‘Governance in Health Systems: towards a new framework for assessment’. In this version I have removed the shading in the tables as instructed.

The framework we propose is largely based on previous work looking at governance in the health sector, however our framework is one of the first to propose a way to assess governance throughout the health system. Furthering the understanding of governance in health systems is vital due to the complex and dynamic nature of health systems. Our framework also differs from others as it does not require the collection of a standard list of indicators, instead it guides the user to consider the various areas of a health system so as to ensure a comprehensive assessment. It can also be used at the sub-national level.

We believe our framework is an important contribution to this continually growing field.

We are at present testing this framework in a low-income country setting and hope that it may reveal where the governance strengths and weaknesses are, so that interventions could be developed which will strengthen the governance and ultimately may improve the performance of the health system.

I remain at your disposal should you need any further details.

Yours sincerely,
Inez Mikkelsen-Lopez