Reviewer's report

Title: Projecting Thailand physician supplies between 2012 and 2030: application of cohort approaches

Version: 2 Date: 16 August 2012

Reviewer: James Buchan

Reviewer's report:

This is a well structured and designed paper that gives a good insight into the situation in Thailand and the use of supply projections.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
Not new but builds on previous work

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
yes

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
yes, limitations are noted

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes

7. Is the writing acceptable?
There is a need for some final edit in English

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

A full edit is required to correct various English language limitations and grammatical inaccuracies- some of which are listed below, along with other minore changes/ additions/ clarifications

Abstract- Results section "The dynamic of physician" requires correction or
addition of words.

Abstract, and related point in text- the 1% annual loss rate- how accurate can this be in the future- what about ageing of the workforce, potential for out migration increasing- the figure appears low and requires as much justification as can be provided by the authors

p 3 Background "how many workforces" requires correction e.g "how many physicians.."

p 3 Background- private sector- rapid increase in demand 1992-97- has this now ended? is private sector employment fully captured in assessing the workforce- is there a risk of dual practice/ double counting?

p 4 first line reads better as "The following approaches were utilised.."

p 4 first para below Fig 1- is there an another source of supply- from those returning to employment after a career break in the country?

p4 second para below Fig 1. There is no mention of gender ratio- is there a feminization of the physician workforce- and if so does this have implications for future career patterns and availability of physician hours?

p 4 second para below Fig 1- who were the "experts" that were consulted?

p4 bottom/ p 5 top- it would be helpful to have more detail on opening of new medical schools- any more planned- are they private sector?

p 5 para beginning "The Medical Council...." fourth line should read ". modify this information, the only that is available...."

Discussion p 7 sentence beginning "The key factor.." requires a re- write for clarification.

p 7 sentence beginning "First the assumption" requires correction, 2nd line - "in the long run.."

p8 is there a reference or link for the nurse cohort study?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'