Reviewer’s report

Title: Why some physicians in Portuguese-speaking African countries work exclusively for the private sector? Findings from a mixed-methods study

Version: 2 Date: 28 July 2014

Reviewer: Ann Levin

Reviewer’s report:

The study findings are interesting and is improved. However, the paper still needs to be revised further.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The paper needs an objective that presents the study hypothesis.
2. The results section should be re-written so that it is clear what the study findings are and the technical issues are stressed less. It would be helpful if each paragraph has a topic sentence that summarizes the main point of the paragraph.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The paper needs to be edited by an English language editor. The language is often awkward and difficult to understand.

Specific comments:

Abstract, Methods, 2nd sentence: ’us’ should be ’as’

Abstract, Findings, last sentence: ’such’ should be replaced with a word such as ’this’

Background, 1st sentence: Replace ’attracts’ with ’is attracting’

Background, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: replace ’strain of’ with ’set of papers in’

Results, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence: replace ‘declared working’ with ‘declared that they worked; replace ’working only’ with ’worked only’; and replace ’engaging’ with ’engaged’

Physicians’ motivations to work in the private sector, last paragraph, last sentence: replace ’did not result’ with ’were not’

Personal trajectories, 3rd paragraph: replace ’operating’ with ’operated’

Personal trajectories, last paragraph: replace ’public because’ with ’public sector because’
Discussion, 2nd paragraph: paragraph is confusing and limitations should be made clearer

Discussion, 5th paragraph: replace 'reason' with 'reasons'

Discussion, last paragraph: replace 'public sector work is' with 'public sector work still'

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests