Reviewer’s report

Title: Working practices and incomes of health workers: evidence from an evaluation of a delivery exemption scheme in Ghana

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2006

Reviewer: Edward Addai

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a well written paper on working practices and incomes of health workers in Ghana. The methods used seem appropriate for the questions the paper sought to answer and the manuscript generally adheres to the standards for reporting.

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2. The paper is weak in two main areas: (a) is a minor essential revision and (b) is a major compulsory revision

(b) major compulsory revision
The paper fails to demonstrate changes in trends in all the variables – income, workload, working conditions and motivation. Even though there are statements of some changes in these variables, they are not substantiated with figures. Further there is no systematic attempt to show how such changes could be attributed to delivery exemptions scheme.

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

The title is misleading and gives the impression that the delivery exemptions scheme is related to income of health workers in the public sector. The salaries of health workers in the public sector are fixed costs and do not vary with work load. Furthermore no attempt is made in the paper to relate the delivery exemptions to incomes in the private sector.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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.