Reviewer's report

Title: Contracting private sector providers for public sector health services in Jalisco, Mexico: perspectives of system actors

Version: 3 Date: 14 April 2009

Reviewer: Gilles Dussault

Reviewer's report:

This paper has been improved, but work remains to be done:

1- in "Methods" there is an incorrect utilization of the term "sample". The study targeted the whole population of contractees (n=180) of whom 87 responded. The latter do not constitute a sample, but the respondents, representing a response rate of 48%. On page 7, the numbers are 180 questionnaires sent and 87 response and on page 9, it is 187 and 84.

2- the discussion of the profile of the respondents should be in the "methods2 section, not "results"

3- The section "Other actors' perspective" discusses only the views of government officials; what about the unions, professional councils, consumers?

4. There is a lack of clarity in using the terms Ministry, Secretariaat and Secretary.

5- The "Discussion" is lacking in comparing the results of this study with what the literature on contracting proposes. An effort has been done to look at Latin American experiences and a little beyond, but more could easily be done.

6- In spite of improvement of the English, there are still numerous typos, another revision is needed.

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

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

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'