Reviewer's report

**Title:** Policy talk: Indepth semi-structured interviews with 84 Ghanaian doctors and medical directors on improving recruitment and retention of doctors in remote Ghana.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 June 2010

**Reviewer:** Peter Wondergem

**Reviewer's report:**

The question posed by the authors is very relevant and well defined. The study is exploratory and the methods for that - in-depth interviews with a wide range of doctors and leaders is well-chosen. The methods are well-defined, although it is not clear to me how doctors were NOT selected in facilities with more than six doctors because six doctors is the maximum per facility to be interviewed.

The discussion is well-balanced and has great applicability for health policy officials in Ghana, and possibly elsewhere, too.

One minor issue is that most of the study concerns "pull-factors" with 'push-factors' mentioned but not systematically explored. For instance systems to punish doctors who not show up are limited. I wonder if there are more such 'push-factors' that came out of the study.

Finally, The font used for the quotes is not always adhered too strictly.

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest