Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessing communities of practice in health policy: A conceptual framework as a first step towards empirical research

Version: 2 Date: 27 September 2013

Reviewer: Sara Bennett

Reviewer’s report:

This paper has been substantially revised based upon all three reviewer comments, and the result is a much clearer and more coherent paper that appropriately situates the discussion in the broader literature.

I have just one outstanding comment. The paper is quite long - 23 pages, and now that the structure of the paper has been improved, it is clear that its main contribution is the development of the conceptual framework. The authors have now moved sections that concern the application of the framework in evaluation to the discussion (bottom of pg 19- pg 22). I am not convinced that these few pages add much but length to the manuscript. As I previously commented the points made here are pretty generic in nature (evaluation needs to be tailored to the particular intervention, need to be clear about evaluation objectives, adapt methods to reflect focus of the evaluation, consider the positionality of the evaluator) - and are standard good evaluation practice. I think it would be better to cut this section - and save it for a later paper where you discuss the application of the framework in practice (using data from the PBF CoP). This would shorten and enhance the focus of the current paper.

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 interests