Reviewer’s report

Title: Bridging the gaps among research, policy and practice in ten low- and middle-income countries: Development and testing of a questionnaire for health-care providers

Version: 2 Date: 18 March 2009

Reviewer: Lisa DeMaria

Reviewer's report:

Review of “Bridging the gaps among research, policy and practice in ten low- and middle-income countries: Development and testing of a questionnaire for health care providers”

This manuscript presents findings from a study to develop and validate a questionnaire to examine health care providers’ views about using research evidence and how they use this evidence in their work. The manuscript is clearly written and well-structured. The methodology and findings are clearly presented and the analysis employed is appropriate. Overall, I find the article acceptable for publication, yet suggest some minor changes, aimed primarily at expanding and strengthening the discussion section, to further improve the manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions

The following comments apply to the discussion section.

The questions 9 and 10 in the questionnaire address knowledge and practices specific to providers’ clinical domains. It would be pertinent to address more clearly how this part of the questionnaire could and should be adapted to other, and potentially more complex, health interventions (e.g. use of MgSO4 for management of pre-eclampsia, prescription of first line ART for HIV infected individuals, management of diabetes). Would the authors recommend that this questionnaire be used for more complex health problems? What factors should be taken into consideration when using this questionnaire for more complex health interventions?

For those two domains in which Cronbach’s alpha was low, what observations can the authors make and what (if any) adjustments should be made to the questionnaire to address this point?

Finally, it would be useful for anyone wishing to follow up on survey results to include the URL where the first citation may be accessed.

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.