Reviewer's report

Title: Documenting the experiences of health workers expected to implement guidelines during an intervention study in Kenyan hospitals.

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2009

Reviewer: Stefan Peterson

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for letting me read this interesting report of new work in an under-researched area. The paper, in my view, is on the long side - a frequent issue in qualitative work. With some more work this paper will make a very useful addition to the literature in this field.

Major revisions
- I personally think "barriers" to behaviour change is a major issue - I would like to be helped where they are in the conceptual frameworks used in Figs 1 and 2 (e.g. common ones lack of drugs, equipment, etc, or did that not apply?)

- I would like to know which qualitative method was used for data analysis - e.g. content analysis (manifest?, latent?), grounded theory etc? Also what was the relation between the authors with regard to coding - who did what? how were differences reconciled?

- at times I am not clear on what was stated, observed, and interpreted, respectively. Similarly at times it is not clear what is a result and what is an element of discussion - they now appear mixed in the results section

- I think the previous point could be helped by putting the relevant quote just after the paragraph it refers to - at times there are now several paragraphs in one results subsection but the often many quotes are all at the end of the section

- I would like to ask for more correspondence between the conclusions in the abstract and at end of article

- were there any findings on "facilitators" for change?

Minor revisions
- "developing countries" is a term that includes both Somalia and Singapore. I recommend using terms like Low income countries vs High-income countries (instead of "developed" countries)
- there are some improvements to be made in English here and there and in getting details right in Referencing (e.g. No 1, 10 and 23 etc)
- Some of the barrier names do not conform with the subheadings, which makes my life as a reader unnecessarily hard...
personally I would like to see the data collection tool, to the extent the journal allows "web-extras"

Looking forward to seeing this important article in print.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**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 not competing interests