Reviewer's report

Title: "A constant struggle to receive mental health care": Health care professionals' acquired experience of barriers to mental health care services in Rwanda.

Version: 3
Date: 16 October 2015

Reviewer: Richard Owen

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions: please clarify:

Line 92 – when were higher premiums introduced?

Line 101 – number of mental health nurses – OK, but what was the proportion of mental health nurses, since you’ve just give the proportion of psychologists and psychiatrists?

Lines 118-120 – why were participants selected from the Southern part of Rwanda? Is this a convenience sample, or a purposive sample?

Line 125 - Authors should add information to Table 1 about professionals' disciplines, and MH specialty within discipline; also, whether Rwandan or foreign-born. The fact that professionals’ disciplines vary is mentioned as a strength later, but we don’t know the distributions of disciplines of respondents.

Line 192 – On the face of it, "poverty" and "lack of family support" seem like two different categories, with overlap possible. Please explain why they were grouped together.

Line 422 – On the face of it, "poverty" and "lack of family support" seem like two different categories, with overlap possible. Please explain why they were grouped together.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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 no competing interests.