Reviewer's report

Title: A global survey on occupational health services in selected International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) member countries

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Matthias Bethge

Reviewer's report:
The authors report on a global survey on occupational health services in selected International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) member countries. The content is in the scope of BMC Public Health. The draft gives a comprehensive overview of occupational health services coverage. This is very important for the field of occupational medicine. The authors identify a coverage gap, an implementation gap and a capacity gap.

I have some minor remarks.

p4, line 20: Please correct (4, 12-15) => [4, 12-15].

p5: The background should close with the purpose of the study.

p7, line 49ff.: Please check which statistical analyses were indeed used. Most of the reported results are descriptive. As the sample is small and the authors emphasize the qualitative character of their findings I propose to abandon statistical testing at all.

p8, line 11: Reporting of the p-value should be moved to the results section (but see above).

p8: Response should be reported as the first result (please check the STROBE statement).

p9, line 46: Please correct: recommendations.

p18, line 2-7: The association is not significant. Please avoid artificial precision when reporting numbers (i.e.: chi2 = 3.30, p = 0.07). Please avoid causal interpretation (maybe ratification was found easier if coverage was already excellent). Interpretation of finding should be part of the discussion.

p19, line 1-2: Avoid artificial precision. Statistical analyses are reported in the methods section and can be skipped. Please provide the numbers. Likelihood of occupational health services for governance by the MOH and the reference (non-governance by MOH? or others?).
p19, line 46ff: Please avoid causal interpretation due to the cross-sectional design.
p20, line 28: better: (n = 60)?
p22, line 56: better: (n = 20)?
p26, line 51: Please use the correct citation style. Wilson et al. (2006); (70)?
p27, line 27: international instruments
p30, line 6-57: Correlation of coverage and development indicators should be reported in the results section.
The draft needs careful proofreading.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal