Reviewer’s report

Title: Widening access to medicine may improve GP recruitment in deprived and rural communities.

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2015

Reviewer: Elizabeth Hemphill

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. Reflect on practitioners originating from low socio-economic origins that choose not to return to deprived or remote practice (is clinical training a way out?)
2. Reflect on the problem of uneven loadings in dependent variables (e.g., 67 GPs in deprived practice compared with 734 not in deprived practice and 150 GPs in remote compared with 651 not in remote). This is more problematic than the overall sample size or response rate in my view. More detail is required to describe how the explanatory variables were tested given the small numbers in the outcome variable (67 highly deprived operators).
3. Do not assume all readers will know what a ‘dose-response pattern’ is.
4. Explore/explain whether the choice to work remote is a preference or obligation, e.g. part of immigration policy.
5. Report to a greater degree regression model statistics commonly used in this publication.
6. Finally, the authors should clarify what they mean by ‘enhancing general practice’. Is this increasing access opportunities or episodes of care per patient? Over any any specific time and for any specific population cohort other than socio-economic, remote or 'deprived'?

When these revisions have been made the paper will present a more convincing argument and contribution that is currently blurred by significant omissions.

Minor revisions
1. Make more use of the tables attached to support your discussion. These are currently not used at all directly.
2. Table 1: Current practice Confidence interval includes a hyphen rather than the word ‘to’.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests