Reviewer's report

Title: Fair access to medicine? Retrospective analysis of UK medical schools application data 2009-2012 using three measures of socioeconomic status

Version: 3 Date: 17 September 2015

Reviewer: Phillippa Poole

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- Minor Essential Revisions

"Minor issues not for publication"
1. Data 'are' plural! Several changes needed
2. Please explain 'selective schools' earlier in the paper.

- Discretionary Revisions

3. Consider more discussion on the interaction among the three SES measure and what would be a good measure for medical schools to use.
4. Would a separate pathway/quota for low SES help, as for indigenous students in some countries?

This is a well-conducted, retrospective, cohort study with N = 32,964, seeking to assess social gradients in both applicants and those offered a place at medical school using three measures of SES. It contains a good literature review and information on policy. There is adequate power on which to base conclusions. The internal consistency of results across jurisdictions adds more weight to the findings.

What next?

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Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?

Accept after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore)

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.

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