Reviewer's report

Title: The changing landscape of care: does ethics education have a new role to play in health practice?

Version: 2 Date: 10 September 2014

Reviewer: Nathan Emmerich

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that seeks to widen the scope of 'medical ethics' or 'ethics in medicine' and, therefore, in medical ethics education. My concern is with the boundary between 'ethics' and 'politics.' Whilst I am partial to the contraction ethico-politics and have argued for a political dimension to be included in the domain of medical ethics (See: Emmerich JME 2011) I think your paper might usefully signpost different 'ethico-political' concerns. You paper seems concerned with macro level political decisions about the NHS and its organisation, with meso level questions about governance (CQC), management and the (unintended) consequences of bureaucracies, meso-level interest groups (patient groups, acting with solidarity), with the social structuring of professional interactions, and the consequences for first order practice(s) and delivery of (health) care. There is, of course, a lot here and one wonders to what degree can 'everyday' medical professionals actually (practically and positively) engage with this range of issues. As a result to what degree does this need to be tackled in undergraduate medical education? Would it be better to offer opportunities to specialise in these aspects of medicine, would such education be better targeted at existing specialist (intercalation / MA and MSC) course. Or as part of CPD? I think it is worth addressing these points even if only briefly.

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:

This paper is to be published in a cross journal special issue of BMC. A special issue to which I have contributed and would, therefore, like to see published.