Reviewer’s report

Title: How to reform western care payment systems according to physicians, policy makers, healthcare executives and researchers: A discrete choice experiment

Version: 3 Date: 12 December 2014

Reviewer: László Kalabay

Reviewer’s report:

In this study authors use a discrete choice experiment to examine how stakeholder preferences are affected by changes in health system performance objectives or domains and what the implications are for care payment reform. This is a well-designed and well-written cross-sectional study using adequate and sophisticated statistical analysis. Limitations of the study are recognized and discussed in detail.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Authors analyze attitudes in several dimensions, i.e. stakeholder position, geographical region. Age, gender, seniority, form of physicians’ payment are also considered. Based on Table 2 a practicing doctor in a teaching hospital in the USA is the most frequent data supplier. Although the authors are aware of the consequences arising from selection bias, does the study have enough power to compare minor groups (less represented regions, stakeholder positions?)
2. Did the form of physicians’ payment (Table 2, last row) significantly affect their choice in the performance domains?

Minor Essential Revisions
3. Eastern Europe is probably the most heterogeneous region in terms of health care systems, attitude of health policy makers, national income. Were there differences between Western and Eastern parts of this region?

Discretionary Revisions

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Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.