Author's response to reviews

Title: A concise, health service coverage index for monitoring progress towards universal health coverage

Authors:

Anthony Leegwater (Anthony_Leegwater@abtassoc.com)
Wendy Wong (wendy.wong00@gmail.com)
Carlos Avila (Carlos_Avila@abtassoc.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Confidential comments to editors

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Authors:

Anthony Leegwater (Anthony_Leegwater@abtassoc.com)
Wendy Wong (wendi.wong00@gmail.com)
Carlos Avila (Carlos_Avila@abtassoc.com)

Version: 3 Date: 18 August 2014

Comments: see over
A concise, health service coverage index for monitoring progress towards universal health coverage

Dear Editor:

We are submitting our original work, entitled “A concise, health service coverage index for monitoring progress towards universal health coverage” to BMC Health Services Research for publication consideration.

The objective of our study was to develop a practical index to monitor countries as they expand health coverage, using widely available information from domestic and international sources. Our specific focus given the data available was service coverage, developing a more-inclusive measure that overcomes some of the shortcomings of other measures. Our methods include multiple imputation and principal components analysis to develop a composite index from 16 indicators for 103 countries.

We think the paper is relevant to BMC Health Services Research readers who are policy makers or health policy experts because of the growing global commitment to universal health coverage and the pressing debate not only on what that concept means, but also how to measure progress towards that goal.

This manuscript has not been, nor will it be, submitted elsewhere for publication as long as it is under consideration at BMC Health Services Research. All authors have contributed significantly to the work, approve the contents of the manuscript, and concur with its submission to this journal. It contains no copyrighted material from other sources. None of the authors have any relationship or support that might be perceived as constituting a conflict of interest.

I will be serving as corresponding author for this manuscript. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact me by phone: +1 3013475399, e-mail: __ __ __ 8 __ __ 9 __ __ __ & __, or by mail at Abt Associates, 4550 Montgomery Ave, Suite 800 North, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carlos Avila
Principal Associate/Scientist, Senior Health Economist
Abt Associates Inc, (Formerly; Chief of AIDS Financing and Economics Division, UNAIDS).