Reviewer's report

Title: Do existing mechanisms contribute to improvements in care coordination across levels of care in health services networks? Opinions of health personnel in Colombia and Brazil

Version: 2, Date: 8 February 2015

Reviewer: Cherona Hajewski

Reviewer's report:

1. The study question is clearly stated identifying this to be a qualitative, exploratory and descriptive-interpretative study highlighting opinions of health personnel in Colombia and Brazil.

2. Method of study is utilizing a semi-structured interview process with a sample of professionals of different care levels and a thematic content analysis of the segmented cases, informant groups and themes. This approach is appropriate to the type of study however; it is not described anywhere in the article the background and experience of the interviewers, how the interviewers were selected and how they were prepared to conduct the interviews. To include this detail in the article is recommended.

3. The data from the interviews is presented in a summary table; it is presented in quotes identifying the interview category. The sample by category is small and therefore, the emphasis on this manuscript supporting the opinions of the authors needs to be emphasized. The interviews only identified the limitations of the current delivery system and did not identify potential improvements and/or solutions. This could be more clearly stated.

4. Tables are clearly stated and easy to follow.

5. Standards for reporting and data requisition is clearly stated with ethical considerations summarized.

6. Discussion and conclusion of manuscript is comprehensive and complete though the suggestion “that coordination mechanisms are poorly implemented in the majority of the networks” is not clearly demonstrated and I would recommend this statement is revised.

7. Limitations of the study are not stated; this would benefit the manuscript.

8. Authors disclose their current employment and professional credentials.

9. The title and abstract accurately convey what is described in the manuscript.

10. The quality of the writing is acceptable.

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 I have no competing interests or conflict of interest related to this publication.