Reviewer's report

Title: Task shifting of HIV/AIDS case management to Community Health Service Centers in urban China: a qualitative policy analysis

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Reviewer: Edwin Wouters

Reviewer's report:

The authors have thoroughly addressed the issues raised in the previous round of reviews. However, there still remain a few issues that need to be addressed to render the article suitable for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

The main thing is the application of the theoretical framework of Walt & Gilson (1994). This policy triangle is used as the guiding framework and the authors have now also re-written the results section to mirror this framework - as requested by several reviewers.

However, this is not done in a thorough and systematic manner. Some aspects of the triangle are analysed quite well (e.g. actors), but others are analysed really superficially. I think this is because the authors just re-structured their analysis to fit the framework instead of the other way around (i.e. apply a theoretical framework to you in analysis and thus thoroughout the wholme proces of analysis).

The authors thus need to perform their analysis much more in-depth, really analysing the four different elements of the policy triangle of Walt & Gilson in the same manner. For example the process part of the framework is now analysed superficially: was this bottom-up or top-down; how about the different stages of the process (agendasetting, policy-making, implementation, etc.); was it a rational process or more a continuous struggle and fight? The same applies to the content: what about the different elements (goals, means, timing?).

I would suggest that the authors perform a more indept analysis of the policy. They could read some other studies which used the policy triangle of Walt & Gilson (1994) to see how they handled it. For example:


There are ma,ny policy articles and standard policy books which can assist the authors in getting the needed level of analysis in their article.

Apart from this, the article has improved.

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.