Reviewer's report

Title: Sex differences in medico-legal action against doctors: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 10 June 2015

Reviewer: Sam Leinster

Reviewer's report:

1 This is an excellent report which seeks to confirm the apparent finding that male doctors are more likely to be involved in medico-legal actions than female doctors. The methodology adopted is appropriate and the study has been carried out in a thorough manner.

2 The reporting of the results is clear and easily understood. The findings are robust.

3 The discussion is apposite and the conclusions are supported by the data.

4 Discretionary revision: The classification by continent surprised me. All of the studies classified as "European" all but 1 come from the UK. Of the 6 studies classified as "Asia and Australia" 5 come for Australia and New Zealand and 1 from Taiwan. The medical education and healthcare systems in Australia and New Zealand bear strong similarities to the UK whereas Taiwan is more akin to the American system. However, given that there was no evidence of heterogeneity in the Australia and Asia group this probably not important. Some mention in the discussion would be helpful.

5 There are no essential or compulsory revisions.

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