Reviewer’s report

Title: What is the working status of medical staff in pilot county-level public hospitals and their cognition to the reform: A study of public hospital reform in Hubei province of China

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Reviewer: Gerard Schmets

Reviewer’s report:

The topic is very interesting. However, the paper needs in-depth editing and revisions.

Some words used in the title are not common or unclear. For example, "cognition". Does it mean understanding? Knowledge?

Several sentences are unclear. For example in the abstract: "Medical staff did not appear to have a high level of understanding of public hospital reform and to have a negative attitude to achievement of the reform." Does it mean they have a positive or negative attitude? Confusing. The English should be revised.

The Methodology needs to be better explained. In the results, some components need to be explained (for example, what are the different "professional titles")?

In the conclusions, the authors are very negative with the reform. This is misleading. We understand that the staff is negative regarding several aspects of the reform, but no evidence demonstrates the the reform itself, in all its components, is unsatisfactory. The conclusions are very long and repetitive. And all negative. It should be shorten. The last chapter on understanding is the most interesting. It insists on the role of information, and need to better inform and consider staff conditions. The conclusions should be more positive and suggest options/solutions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests