Reviewer's report

Title: Future requirements for and supply of ophthalmologists for an aging population in Singapore

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2015

Reviewer: Yvonne Buys

Reviewer's report:

The authors attempt to make workforce predictions for Singaporean vision care. This is a difficult area and I suspect very hard to evaluate in a system that is both public and private.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Since health care delivery and physician training varies geographically additional background specific for Singapore would be useful to allow comparisons to other geographic areas. For example in the introduction the authors state it takes 5 years go become a house officer. Five years from when, out of high school or after a university undergraduate degree? Who pays for the training of physicians/ophthalmologists? What about foreign trained ophthalmologists?

2. Can an individual ophthalmologist work in both the public and private clinics. If yes, couldn't the changes in demand/utilization also be due to ophthalmologists shifting their clinical volume to private?

3. Are there optometrists in Singapore?

4. In Figure 1B why are the number of ophthalmologists missing for 4 years?

5. A section on limitations should be provided.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Are there any outcome measures such as wait time data to understand if the current scenario of demand/utilization meets the needs of the population?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.