Reviewer’s report

Title: Bridging the Human Resource Gap in Surgical and Anesthesia Care in Low-Resource Countries: A Review of the Task Sharing Literature

Version: 0 Date: 12 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Daniel Bainbridge

Reviewer’s report:

I read with great interest the article entitled: Bridging the Human Resource Gap in Surgical and Anesthesia Care in Low-Resource Countries: A Review of the Task Sharing Literature. In general, the article is well conducted and well written.

A few small points.

1) Most studies of competence between physician and non-physician health providers are underpowered to show meaningful differences in outcomes. If you are going to report no difference then it is important to include a confidence interval.

2) When discussing cost, single procedure comparisons often favor unspecialized trainees. And I would echo the physician concerns when contemplating these comparisons.

3) While I find some of the proposed solutions, training non-specialists in district hospitals for example, helpful I wonder how practical given the obvious limitations on resources.

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