Reviewer’s report

Title: The implication of the shortage of health workforce specialist on Universal Health Coverage in Kenya

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Timothy M. Dall

Reviewer's report:

This paper helps highlight the shortfall of health professionals in many countries, and underscores that geographic imbalances within countries exacerbate the problem of access to quality care. Methodologically the paper is fine, but there are things the authors can do to improve the paper. The most substantial comment is the need for a professional editor to review the paper. There are ways the authors can shorten the paper and make it easier to read. Examples include the following:

1. Many of the descriptors such as the word "very" can be removed. For example, a sentence that reads "...a very important role" can be reduced to "...an important role"

2. Some sentences and paragraphs that are not pertinent to the paper can be removed. For example, page 6 lines 35-38 could be deleted.

3. Formatting is sometimes inconsistent. For example, the words "country directors" are sometimes capitalized and sometimes not capitalized. Also, the phrase "According to the country directors" is used repeatedly and could be removed--perhaps just mentioning once or twice, but not repeatedly.

4. Detailed findings by medical specialty and county are summarized in the tables, so there is no need for a detailed review in the body of the paper. Perhaps share some numbers for illustration and interpretation, but the Results section could be shortened.

The main value of this paper for readers is the opportunity for readers to try and replicate the study in their respective countries.

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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