Reviewer’s report

Title: Experiences and Perceptions of Online Continuing Professional Development among Clinicians in Sub-Saharan Africa

Version: 0 Date: 20 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Amy Walsh

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for sharing this article. Understanding health care workers experiences with online professional development certainly could revolutionize the speed of knowledge translation and continuing education in sub-Saharan Africa. As you note in your limitations, because of the online survey methodology, this study can only be generalized to those who have adequate internet access and internet savvy to complete an online survey. I would be interested to know how much of the health care workforce in sub-Saharan Africa would fit those categories (perhaps extrapolating from age distributions, percentage rural v. urban, % w/ access to smart phones, etc.) I think your methods are sound given the geographic and internet access realities of conducting follow up surveys. I thought the excerpts of survey comments were helpful in providing more in depth participant perspective. In reading the paper, I would like to have a bit more background information about the state of professional development (or whether formal professional development exists) currently in the fields of TB/HIV. Is there any standard curriculum for those working in the field? How is it currently delivered? How does the care most commonly delivered compare with the standard of care in the field? Grammatically, I would suggest replacing most likely in line 217 with especially.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.