Reviewer's report

Title: The Trend and Features of Physician Workforce Supply in China: After National Medical Licensing System Reform

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Reviewer: Kelley Withy

Reviewer's report:

This seems to be the first paper written about the medical licensing system in China. It provides a brief and interesting look into a healthcare system in transition. The findings are that the percentage of women is growing in medicine in China and that there are many different educational standards for being a physician. However the information gained is not terribly new and the methods are not innovative outside of China. Women are increasing in the physician workforce around the world, although possibly not as fast as in China. The broad range of educational levels is more surprising to me, and indicates the need for some standardization, which is described in the paper.

It is interesting that so many older physicians are licensing. I wonder if they are what we call 'grandfathered' in. What is very interesting in this paper is the look into a healthcare system that has many unique characteristics. I would find it very interesting to know if the quality of care is better in areas where physicians are better educated. Quality could be measured by patient satisfaction, an increase in longevity, a decrease in hospital readmissions, etc.

The authors are not fluent English speakers/writers and should be lauded for writing the paper. Unfortunately they often mix up tenses and forgets to use determiners (a, the). In addition, there are many more words than needed in this paper, it can be much more concise and to the point. Some of the language is flowery and out of date. All the charts and tables are not needed as there is repetition. I can provide my notes as a PDF if desired.
One weakness you can mention is that just because a doctor is licensed does not mean s/he is practicing.

**Level of interest**

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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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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