Reviewer’s report

Title: How do we strengthen the health workforce in a rapidly developing high-income country? A case study of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 0 Date: 23 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Belinda O'Sullivan

Reviewer's report:

This paper is about a case of Abu Dhabi and chronic care. It is an interesting paper about a country which I am learning about and enjoyed reading this. There are several suggestions to strengthen the paper.

Background

This could be re-organised and enhanced to provide context more specifically around the research question, specifically focusing on chronic diseases of the population, and chronic diseases workforce, what is known from other countries and what question this research will address and why.

I suggest to explain the context of the UAE where the research is based under a separate heading at the end of the introduction called "The setting of the research".

Aim - this is unclear and makes it hard to navigate the article. Once the aim is clear, the article can be better organised around that aim. The relationship between the exploration of workforce factors and effective implementation of the CCM needs to be clarified, as currently the article material jumps around a bit probably because the problem being addressed and the aim of the paper need to be clearer.

Methods - a method is not explained so the reader can't assess whether it is appropriate to exploring the aim. How is use and improvement from the CCM being judged?

If this is a case study - you need to explain how you undertook the "case" selection -and elements of the context you are observing, preferably state the theoretical approach, and that this is a single-case study. If doing a one off case study, why is this the best time to look at this "case". What methods are used to collect data to inform the case - this is not clear in the article nor from what is presented in Table 2. Case studies need to be in-depth and often involve data collection. If no data has been collected then perhaps this is a narrative or a policy analysis? It appears that
the analysis is broad, rather than in-depth and related to context, as would be required in a case study. So I suggest consider the method more closely.

Discussion - a range of issues come up in the discussion but this needs to be restricted to reporting on the research findings, specific to the aim which was stated.

What

Results - on p 8, Table 2, the chronic care model results are explained but the way that these were ascertained is not explained.

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