Reviewer’s report

Title: Migrant physicians’ entrance and advancement in the Swedish medical labour market: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 14 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Paul Herfs

Reviewer’s report:

First of all I think this article is interesting for those persons, especially scientists and policymakers, who are involved in or responsible for admittance procedures of International Medical Graduates. Of course the outcome of this study is also very important for the subjects of this research project: the migrant physicians. The researchers did their work thoroughly. A response rate of 57% is quite high, especially considering the target group of this study.

Of course I have some remarks for the researchers and I hope they can answer my questions.

1. distribution of questionnaires; no information is given (line 106 and further; line 504) about how the researchers obtained names, e-mail addresses etc. of the MPs in Sweden. Was the Department of Health involved in this study? Did the Department of Health gave a contribution to this research by giving the names and e-mail addresses of MPs? If the researchers were not supported by the Department of Health, how did the researchers obtain data on MPs in Sweden?

2. in this study the position of junior doctors (e.g. line 118 and further and line 178 and further) is mentioned. In this section (response and respondents' demographics) the researchers state: "A few had worked as junior doctors ..... previous to enrolling in the CPP ...." I understand that MPs can work as medical assistants, nurses, etc. before enrolling in the CPP. But CPP is necessary for licensing to practice as a medical doctor in Sweden. Is a junior doctor not licensed to work as a medical doctor?

3. the routes that lead to a Swedish license to practice (line 110 and further) is difficult to understand. Am I right when I conclude that the Mandatory Medical Internship (MMI) is part of the Complementary Program for Physicians (CPP)? How is it possible that the CPP lasts for 10 months (line 113) and the MMI, which is part of CPP, lasts for 18-21 months (line 115)?

4. question with regard to the status of the MMI. Onwards line 262 it becomes clear that the MMI is mandatory not only for MPs but also for Swedish trained doctors and EEA-trained doctors. If I see it correctly the situation is as follows. For MPs the CPP is a first phase necessary for licensing as a medical doctor, but without MMI (second phase) a MP becomes fully licensed?

5. I guess that typing mistakes can be corrected by the editor, but on line 294 the word "heterogenic" should be changed in "homogenic".
6. The outcomes of this research are very much congruent with my PhD-research (Herfs, PGP, 2011; International Medical Graduates in the Netherlands). I missed referral to this study.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

- An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

- Needs some language corrections before being published

**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 don’t have 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