Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying values in the health policy decision-making processes about health-system financing in Latin America: A critical interpretive synthesis

Version: 0 Date: 18 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Adriano Massuda

Reviewer's report:

This is very original research, well designed and developed, bringing relevant contribution for understanding achievements and challenges of health system financing in the Latin American region.

The manuscript explores how and under what conditions values are incorporated into political decision-making about health systems financing in Latin American countries, using critical interpretive synthesis.

The investigation method is appropriate for the purpose of the investigation. Robust bibliographic research was employed. The articles’ selection criteria, review of references, data extraction and discovery of synthesis are clearly described.

As results, the research found 116 values, which were used to develop a structure based on four categories of values: related to objectives, technical, governance and situational; and conditions under values are used: agenda setting, policy development and policy implementation.

Principal findings, limitations and potentialities were discussed. Figures and tables are clear and support the understanding of the text.

The framework developed is an original production and makes a relevant contribution to understanding achievements, challenges and threats to the financing of health systems in Latin America. Despite the progress made by the health system reforms made since the 1980s, the pattern of public underfinancing didn’t change. Moreover, recent changes in political and economic context are jeopardizing the results obtained: Brazil is a dramatic example.

I have a few suggestions and adjustments to the author's consideration.

--&gt; As the authors' goal is to explore how values and incorporated in health system financing, showing more details about the financing pattern financing in the region will be very useful, such as % of GDP, % of public expenditure, % of out-of-pocket, etc.

--&gt; As the region is under recent and profound political challenges, testing democracy and human rights, the authors may explore how it will affect values.

--&gt; In line 465, there is unneeded comma and line 474, I believe the figure number is 4 and not 3.
Finally, congratulations on the manuscript.

I really enjoyed reading it.

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

An exceptional article

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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