

Reviewer's report

Title: A systematic review of task-shifting for HIV treatment and care in Africa

Version: 2 **Date:** 3 March 2010

Reviewer: Norbert Dreesch

Reviewer's report:

1. Does it address an important or timely issue?

The article is timely and provides a systematic review of a topic which has led to some controversy which needed to be addressed. The approach to capture the various strengths and weaknesses of articles presented in the overview in the annex is very helpful.

2. Is it well reasoned? + 3. Is it relatively balanced, or does it make plain where the author's opinions might not represent the field as a whole?

The article is well researched and presents a balanced view of the topic under review, author opinions are balanced where expressed.

4. Is the standard of writing acceptable?

The article is well written and easily understandable.

Please make your report as constructive and detailed as possible in your comments so that authors have the opportunity to overcome any serious deficiencies that you find and please also divide your comments into the following categories:

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached) None.

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- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct) A few editorials need to be taken care of: p.8, para 2, line 12 'assit' should read 'assistance', p.9, line 1: delete the word 'take', para two (inserted) line 7, delete 'a', next line - word the first three words to read: 'fully peer reviewed', page 11, para 2, line 9, delete the word 'that' at the end of the line.

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

Once you have done this, there are also some questions for you to answer, including one that asks your advice on publication.

Accept after editorial revisions.

When you have completed your report, please upload it using the online form, accessible using the 'submit your report' tab above.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

no interests declared by reviewer