Reviewer’s report

Title: Absenteeism amongst health workers - developing a typology to support empiric work in low-income countries and characterizing reported causes.

Version: 2 Date: 16 April 2013

Reviewer: Jean M Moore

Reviewer’s report:

I continue to remain confused by the overlap between categories in the typology. It is hard to differentiate between 'voluntary' and 'involuntary unsanctioned' absences. Further, if you can find no examples of 'unsanctioned involuntary' absences, I wonder if it's appropriate to extend the typology beyond the data you used to inform its development. Perhaps you could revise the typology to reflect the findings of your meta-analysis and suggest the need for further research on absenteeism that could support refinements to the typology.

Again, I think this is a very important topic and your typology could serve as an important framework for future research.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.