

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Assessing Health Systems for Insulin-Requiring Diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: Developing a 'Rapid Assessment Protocol for Insulin Access'

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 9 November 2005

**Reviewer:** Dina Balabanova

### Reviewer's report:

This is an important and well-written paper exploring the use of rapid assessment methodologies to elicit factors influencing the provision of good quality diabetes care in low-income countries.

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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)

1. The paper describes the development of the RAPIA instrument in detail, mostly focusing on process rather than content. However, it would be very useful to briefly compare the methodological approach taken with that of other instruments and discuss the rationale behind the selection of particular thematic areas.
2. The main instruments used to develop the RAPIA should be explicitly referenced - are these references 13-15 or there are others as well?
3. On page 2 after the main principles, a short paragraph summarising the limitations of the RAPIA instrument (as well as RAP approaches in general) and steps taken to overcome these should also be noted.
4. The number of interviews and other country-specific information could be presented in a table rather than text, to facilitate reading.
5. It should be made more explicit that the aim is not just to identify health system constraints, but also factors that may facilitate change.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'