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General Information

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title: Medical practice in developing countries: A novel journal project
Abstract: Many medical practices in developing countries are not well-documented in the literature although they are widely accepted in regions with limited resources. Barriers to the documentation of such practices in medical journals include likelihood of rejection by peer-reviewers because such practices are often not consistent with known standards, reluctance of practitioners to confess indulgence in below standard medical practices, their lack of interest in publishing in such setting as well as other factors.

This actually has the effect of having "blind spots" related to real-life medical practice in many parts of the world. Overcoming these blind spots is however of utmost importance when it comes to health policy making, developmental work, allocation of resources and combat of several diseases (including transmission
of infection), for example. International agencies, donors and health policy makers are often desperate for a reliable source of information which document such practices which they would not find in classical international, regional or even local medical journals which compete to publish the best research and the best practices even in a low-income setting and even if these are not widely practiced. A journal which would focus on describing real-life practices in such setting would fill these knowledge gaps. Mechanisms to encourage practitioners to submit their work (including clinical practices which may fall well below international standards of care) have to be innovative in such a journal which would accommodate a wide spectrum of practice standards. The visibility of such practices to health practitioners, policy makers, donors...etc. would be the first steps to change to better health services.