

Review of: "The Plight of Rare Diseases in Southern Africa: Health and Social Services Policy Recommendations"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article adheres to the standard format of a position paper.

The abstract is well-crafted, and the graphical abstract provides a concise overview of the article's contents. It summarizes the research findings, enabling readers to quickly grasp the content in a visual format.

The Background section contains relevant information pertaining to the topic. As an improvement, it would be beneficial to introduce examples of rare diseases in this section, which I have noticed are included in the situational analysis. Introducing these examples earlier on would enhance the article.

The situational analysis is well-written. While a position paper can be evidence-based or eminence-based, due to the nature of the topic, evidence is necessary. Some statements require supporting evidence, and presenting a few statistics on specific diseases would highlight the need for further action in this field.

The focus of this position paper is on the SADC region. Before delving into the specifics of the region, it would be helpful to explain global developments in this area, such as those by the WHO. Additionally, including WHO recommendations would provide a broader context.

Since this position paper provides recommendations based on a consensus, it is important to provide a brief description of the coalition, possibly within the background section.

The policy recommendations are well-written and feasible.

All abbreviations have been defined in the list of abbreviations.

Overall, it is a good article; however, it would benefit from substantiating evidence and referencing global developments in the field.