Reviewer's report

Title: Costs of vaginal delivery and caesarian section at a public sector hospital in Islamabad, Pakistan

Version: 4 Date: 22 June 2009

Reviewer: Stavros Petrou

Reviewer's report:

Re: 'Costs of vaginal and caesarian section delivery at a public sector hospital in a major city of Pakistan'
Authors: Attia Khan and Shakila Zaman

I would like to thank the authors for revising the manuscript, which is substantially improved. I believe that the manuscript would benefit from a number of further (relatively minor) revisions:
1. The authors should provide information on the risk profiles of the study groups and discuss the generalisability of their results to other maternity contexts. The risk profiles should be clearly described in the methods section.
2. The authors should discuss the potential limitations associated with interviewing women and their husbands/relatives whilst in hospital and before all costs would have been incurred.
3. The authors' strategy of handling missing data through either listwise deletion or replacement by the mean of non-missing values is seriously prone to bias. Ideally, multiple imputation methods are required to handle missing data.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.