Reviewer's report

Title: Infection Control in delivery care units, Gujarat state, India

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2011

Reviewer: Elizabeth McClure

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this study adds to the literature by describing current practices pertaining to infection control in hospitals. This topic is especially pertinent to a region where hospital delivery rates are rising and infection contributes to a significant proportion of mortality.

The majority of the comments below are discretionary.

Abstract: The ‘results’ section does not include data but reads more like conclusions rather than presentation of data, e.g., what data were used to determine that the hospital guidelines “poorly developed”?

Overall, in the introduction it is difficult to follow the authors’ main point. For example, the first paragraph references to “2015 fast approaching” “MDG5” and modeled estimates without defining these, and then the following paragraphs discuss India-specific estimates without describing the discrepancy between these and initial estimates. In the introduction, it may be helpful to more clearly define the optimal guidelines/standards which the study aimed to investigate. The authors could clarify the primary question better.

Methods Section

Facility selection: The authors indicate that 20 were selected to be representative. More description of how they were representative would be helpful and what were a priori eligibility criteria (e.g., delivery numbers, private vs. public, etc)?

Given that the investigators defined ‘high’ and ‘low’ performing areas prior to the study, were any measures taken to ensure that the observers/interviewers were not biased by these definitions? Who were the interviewers and how were they trained?

Results

Table 1. It would be helpful to have more description of the sites, including number of annual births, mortality rates, etc.

Table 2-3. It might be interesting to have some comparisons of the sites reported practice vs. observed (e.g., there appear to be some discrepancy in the percentages between the rates presented in the two tables with more observed than reported). Table 4. Are there correlations between practices in the delivery vs. operations room?

In the discussion, the authors provide recommendations based on these results
but the standard for these recommendations is not clear. Finally, a discussion of the potential limitations to the study which are not well described in the conclusions section.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**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