Reviewer's report

Title: Waiting for attention and care: Birthing accounts of women in rural Tanzania who developed obstetric fistula as an outcome of labour

Version: 3 Date: 15 August 2011

Reviewer: Janet JM Turan

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded well to all the comments and have made all the suggested changes in the manuscript. It looks very good. The English will still require some minor editing before publication.

At this point, I would suggest only the following minor essential revisions:

1: Page 12: I would suggest rewording the description of the statistical tests as follows: "For descriptive analyses, frequencies and proportions were used to summarise the data. Cross-tabulations and chi-square statistics were used to assess the statistical significance of associations between variables."

2. Page 14: Please add a sentence to introduce Jemimah’s story. Something like: "The story of Jemimah (not her real name) presented below gives an example of the difficult birth experiences described by many of the women."

3. Page 17: I would suggest rewording the sentences describing the results of the statistical tests (and adding the actual chi-square test statistic values) as follows: "We found significant associations between early attendance at health care facilities after the onset of labour and women’s educational level (chi-square= X.XX, p <0.05), and living with a husband (chi-square=X.XX, p <0.05). However, we did not find significant associations between early attendance and women’s age or marital status."

4. Page 28: I would suggest the following rewording for the final paragraph of the discussion. "The findings of this study, including Jemimah’s birth narrative, illustrate how delays occurred and were experienced in the different phases of the birthing process, and how these delays can be detrimental to the outcome of labour for both the mother and the child. This study also revealed a series of weaknesses in the health care system associated with obstetric competence, infrastructure and health worker-patient relationships."

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.