Reviewer’s report

Title: Inability to predict postpartum hemorrhage: Insights from an Egyptian prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 9 October 2011

Reviewer: Everett Magann

Reviewer’s report:

Major Revisions:
The authors need to clearly state if this is a secondary analysis of Prata’s original study reference # 29
If so, then information must be included in the methods section about the original study so the reader can understand the application of a secondary analysis to this study
The collection and measurement of the blood initially and then every 20 minutes must be more clearly explained

Minor essential revisions
The use of active management of the third stage of labor is unclear from the protocol, how was it decided who would and who would not be actively managed or were the charts just reviewed afterwards to explain what happened in each University hospital?
Also since the reference study was about misoprostol, what was the impact of its use on the outcome of this study?
The definition of the first and second stage of labor needs to be included in the methods section as those lengths seem to be very, very, short, with almost 40% < 3 hours in the PPH group and > 50% < 3 hours in the NO PPH group and that is with the percentage of nulliparous women being 38% in the PPH group and 35% in the no PPH group.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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. EF Magann