Reviewer’s report

Title: Causes of perinatal death at a tertiary care hospital in Northern Tanzania 2000-2010: Registry based study

Version: 3 Date: 29 September 2012

Reviewer: Andrea Barnabas Pembe

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is well written and I have few comments and suggestions.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor essential revisions

1. This study is based on the registry of the hospital, to reflect on how data were collect from the mother, I suggest the last part of the sentence on the ethical approval subsection “and informed consent...prior to the interview” needs to be removed and placed in the data collection subsection.

2. The results section, first sentence, the total of males and females is not 1958 and the percent of 917 out of 1958 is not 48.6. Was the sex of 15 perinatal deaths not known? Or were females 932? Change or give clarification.

3. Table 2, the column of the birth weight 1500-2499, the calculations of “perinatal deaths per 1000 births” need to be revised. According to my calculation the overall perinatal deaths is 147.3 instead of 149.3, antepartum stillbirths is 101.1 instead of 102.5 and early neonatal deaths is 46.2 instead of 46.8.

4. Table 3, the total of unexplained asphyxia is 425 = (353+72) instead of 423 and that of unexplained immaturity is 46 (39+7) instead of 48. Correct the numbers.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Introduction the second paragraph, second sentence needs be re-phrased as it may be difficult for international readers or readers not working on health issues to know the zones used by the Tanzania Ministry of Health.

2. Data analysis, the last word “estimated” can be replaced with the word calculated.

3. Discussion, maternal disease and abruption placenta subsection, last sentence. The author may expand discussion on the quality of screening for hypertension in Tanzania giving studies which were conducted in Tanzania for instance studies by Urassa et al in Rufiji.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests