Reviewer's report

Title: Utilization of postnatal care for newborns and neonatal mortality in India: Evidence from a large-scale population-based dataset

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2012

Reviewer: Nandita Saikia

Reviewer's report:

Major and compulsory revision:

1) In methodology, authors need to justify the advantage of using conditional logistic regression in the analysis. Matching variable should be defined properly. The reason of excluding the babies that died within the first few hours and minutes of birth from analysis should be explained.

2) While describing the data, authors can describe more on how information on death are collected. In other words, authors can mention that DLHS 3 collected birth history data since Jan1, 2004 and these information is utilized to define neonatal deaths.

2) In conditional regression, some important variables are not controlled to get adjusted effect of PNC. For example, ANC coverage, birth interval and initiation of breastfeeding etc can be included in the analysis. Earlier studies show that early initiation of breastfeeding prevents neo-natal mortality. Two important references are mentioned here.

3) Authors rightly pointed out the limitation of the analysis. Although information on gestational age is not available in DLHS, authors could have taken some other important indicators, for example, pregnancy complications and type of delivery (normal/cesarean).

Discretionary Revisions:

4) In table 2, title should be modified according to the order of the variables in the table.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.