Reviewer's report

Title: Gaps in the evidence for prevention and treatment of maternal anaemia: a review of systematic reviews

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Reviewer: Zulfiqar A Bhutta

Reviewer’s report:

This umbrella overview of reviews makes a number of points about evidence and information gaps and provides a framework for analysis for interventions to address maternal anemia.

The major shortcoming here is that the review does not distinguish between various types of reviews by quality and hence provide a synthesis of key observations. It would have been very helpful to see a standardized process of doing so such as the AMSTAR criteria or an assessment of heterogeneity of findings given varying contexts. The emphasis in the current analysis seems to be more on the methodological aspects of the review rather than the contextual issues highlighted above.

For this to be a meaningful review, some standardized and validated criteria for evaluation of the systematic review should be employed, the studies ranked in some order in various categories. Where reviews of comparable quality exist, a pooled analysis would help. This overview could be substantially improved for this to be relevant to public health and research.

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:

No conflict of interest