Reviewer’s report

Title: The quality of antenatal care in rural Tanzania: what is behind the number of visits?

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2012

Reviewer: Sia Msuya

Reviewer’s report:

REVIEWERS COMMENTS

Journal: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
Title: The quality of antenatal care in rural Tanzania: what is behind the number of visits?

General:
The study is important in the field of maternal and newborn health because it is evaluating the quality of antenatal care routinely offered in rural Tanzania. The paper is well written and easy to read and follow. There is however some questions the authors need to address.

Comments:
• The authors should give the time period when the second phase of the study was conducted i.e. the cross sectional study
• It seems the authors used multiple tools and methods but they are not well elaborated/explained. The authors explained in the methodology that they assessed the antenatal cards and they used the semi-structured instrument to assess staffing level equipments etc. However when you read in the results the authors suggest that they assessed quality of care among pregnant women and they also have some results from the providers
o The tool to collect the information from the women is not described in detail. Which information was it geared to collect after assessing the ANC Cards?
o Quality of care is broad, how did the authors assess the quality of care among the pregnant women? Which validated tool did they use?
o How can semi-structured tool used to assess the infrastructure and supplies?
o The authors also say the same semi-structured tool was used to collect/interview the in-charges?
It will be clear to the reader if the tools are well described at this section
• What were the inclusion criteria for women who were enrolled in the eleven facilities? Did the authors take into consideration if it was the first or other visits?
• Intermittent prevention for malaria and tetanus toxoid vaccination are other measures/services given during ANC period. Why they are not included?
• Ethical permission: There is a national ethical review board in Tanzania as well as ethical review boards at several Universities. Why didn’t the authors seek ethical approval?

Typo

In data analysis section add CI after 95%...