Reviewer's report

Title: Perspectives of men on antenatal and delivery care service utilisation in rural western Kenya: A qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2012

Reviewer: Zubairu Iliyasu

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

This paper addresses an important but neglected issue, male involvement in maternal health care. It is well designed and well written. Although some methodological purists frown at mixing qualitative and quantitative methods, in my opinion a mixed method study would have quantified the level of male involvement while providing rich qualitative information. Nevertheless, the qualitative study has provided answers to the stated objectives of the study. The authors should recommend further studies that can build upon their findings while addressing some of their limitations. For instance, how future studies can minimise the effect of researcher’s gender and tease out the effects of polygamous marriages. It would also be interesting to hear the views of women regarding the involvement of men in antenatal care and delivery in the same cultural setting.

Also, what can hospitals/clinics learn from the flexible payment methods of the TBAs? since this was apparently one of the barriers for hospital delivery. There is also a need to speculate on possible ways of improving trust between couples.

2. Minor essential revisions NONE

3. Discretionary revisions NONE

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'