Reviewer's report

Title: Health and nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices of pregnant women attending and not-attending ANC clinics in Western Kenya: a cross-sectional analysis

Version: 1 Date: 29 November 2012

Reviewer: Geraldine McNeill

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. I am concerned about the comparison of women attending and not attending for antenatal care when the data in table 1 shows a difference in the average gestation age of the two groups such that the non-attenders have a mean just emotional age of 4.25 months whereas the mean gestation age of the first visit in the attending group is 4.48 months. This suggests to me that some of the non-attending group might become attenders later in their pregnancy. If this comparison is to be made a tall I think it needs to be between two groups matched for gestation age or the analysis needs to take this major difference into account.

2. In a study of antenatal care use I am surprised not to see parity as a potential covariate: was this data not collected?

3. It is not clear to me whether the authors think that the knowledge, attitudes and practices are determinants of or determined by antenatal care attendance or other covariates. For example education might predict attitudes but knowledge and particularly practice e.g. is malaria or anti-helmithic treatment might be a result of attending the clinic where this is recommended as part of the programme of antenatal care. It would therefore be useful to have a clear summary of what services are provided as part of the antenatal care for these women

Minor essential revisions

4. On page 7 line for it is stated that women who had an infant aged 0-23 months were invited to participate. It is not clear to me what happened to the data from woman who had an infant but two were not pregnant: whether excluded from this analysis? It would also be useful to know the response rate for the invitation to take part

5. The reason for the missing values in the adjusted analyses in tables 3 and four needs to be provided

6. Some explanation for the direction of the a a a a a a ssociation between helps knowledge and gestational age shown in table 3 should be provided
**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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