Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge and utilization of partograph among obstetric care givers in public health institutions of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2012

Reviewer: Matthews Mathai

Reviewer's report:

1. The sampling method is better written but will benefit from reorganization of text. I suggest that this section starts with information on the number of hospitals and staff (currently para 1 on Pg 9), then provide the sample size calculation (currently Para 2 on Pg 8) and then para 2 on pg 9.

2. Several covariates have been entered in the multivariate model. The sample size is relatively small in some of the categories. It is difficult to interpret the relevance of some very high adjusted ORs with wide CI. A reanalysis with a small number of covariates with fewer categories in the multivariate model would be beneficial for better understanding.

3. The authors state that “the majority of such deaths could be prevented by cost-effective and affordable health interventions like the partograph..” is not correct. The majority of maternal deaths are due to causes other than prolonged and obstructed labour but the partograph is an important tool in prolonged and obstructed labour. This sentence should be rephrased. Also the text should be better edited before publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests