Reviewer's report

**Title:** The Effect of Health Facility Delivery on Neonatal Mortality: Systematic Review And Meta-Analysis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 September 2012

**Reviewer:** Xing Lin Feng

Reviewer's report:

Review report for the manuscript entitled “The Effect of Health Facility Delivery on Neonatal Mortality: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”

There seems to be a debate on the strategy to deliver neonatal care for developing countries, i.e. universal facility based strategy or not. However till now, there are no consensus evidences to support such a strategy. Therefore this is a relevant paper address an important issue. However I have several major comments for the authors to address.

1. The systematic review part of this study needs some improvement. The authors only searched limited sources of literatures rather than all the possible sources, which violate the basic requirement for a systematic review. I suggest the authors to update their sources at least to the WHO database, World Bank data base and other linguistic sources such as Portugal and Spanish sources where many evidences from the developing world, e.g. The Latin American and African countries, may exit.

2. The data seems not suit for a meta-analysis due to the existence of substantial heterogeneity among various studies. This issue has been discussed by Lee et.al (ref 46)

3. It would be better should the authors provide a new Funnel plot on the trimmed and filled data for publication bias.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None