Author's response to reviews

Title: Prioritizing investments in innovations to protect women from the leading causes of maternal death

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April 26, 2013

Emily Crow, PhD
Executive Editor
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
BioMed Central
236 Gray’s Inn Road
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United Kingdom

Dear Emily Crow:

Please consider the attached manuscript, “Prioritizing Investments in Innovations to Protect Women From the Leading Causes of Maternal Death,” for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

The manuscript describes the comprehensive process that PATH recently used to assess nearly 40 technologies for their potential to reduce maternal mortality from postpartum hemorrhage and preeclampsia and eclampsia in low-resource settings. About 30 women die each hour from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. The findings presented in our manuscript provide critical insights on five innovations with especially high potential for saving women’s lives. PATH’s work to assess and prioritize these technologies has been part of the Merck for Mothers initiative.

PATH presented the assessment process and results in a recent international webinar with maternal health stakeholders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. The assessment process presentation can be found at
http://sites.path.org/mnhtech/assessment/. In addition, we provided an overview of a novel Excel-based tool that we developed to guide the systematic assessment of investment opportunities that may help to reduce maternal mortality. We aim to make this resource available to the public on our website. Ideally, this tool will be publicly launched in conjunction with a publication. We are happy to discuss this further with you.

PATH hopes that by advancing these high-impact maternal health technologies and collaborating to advance their use, we can help build brighter futures for women, families, communities, and nations. We believe our article will be of keen interest to BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth readers who are concerned about the high number of maternal deaths in developing countries.

Sincerely,

Tara Herrick
Commercialization Officer, Analytics
Attachment