Reviewer's report

Title: Availability of drugs and medical supplies needed for emergency obstetric care: experience of health facility managers in a rural district of Tanzania.

Version: 1
Date: 2 January 2014

Reviewer: Ipyana Mwampagatwa

Reviewer's report:

General Comments
I congratulate the authors for an incredible job they have done. The topic is relevant and addresses an important problem that faces the delivery of essential obstetric care services not only in Tanzania but also in other developing Countries.
Methodological approach and data analysis was appropriate for this study.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None.

Minor Essential Revisions
Title:
I suggest the title to read “Availability of drugs and medical supplies for emergency obstetric care: an experience in a rural District of Tanzania”
(The words needed in the first line and the words facility managers in the second line are removed)
BMC is an international Journal and therefore this paper (if acceptable and published) will be read by many people from outside Tanzania, it will sound more elaborative if the authors would include, in the background, an introductory note on maternal referral system in Tanzania as well as the capacity of each referral level to offer basic to comprehensive obstetric care services (This will automatically include drugs and medical supplies needed for EMoC at each level so that readers can be in a position to clearly understand what the authors are trying to say)
In the data collection section of the methodology, the authors pointed out that they had an in-depth interview with two CHMT and one Board members but in the results and discussion part of the manuscript it does not feature very clearly on what was deducted from these core planners in the council health Team. The views from them may add some useful information wealthy discussing.
If the authors would have involved core service providers (other than facility managers in the in-depth interview) and service beneficiaries, wouldn’t it add some useful details?
Page: 14, last para first line, authors should use the words “health centres” (and not just centre as it appears here)
Page 15: HFM/FHM are these abbreviations interchangeable? I think a key somewhere to define the abbreviations would make it easier for readers to easily understand what the authors want to mean.

**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