Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal Mortality at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2014

Reviewer: Odi' Ugochukwu Joannes Umeora

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory revision:
Data collection p.5: what classifies the women as stable or sick

line 120: Is it implied that if a woman delivered at home in the absence of past bad obstetric history, it will not be regarded as patient's substandard care?

line 122: what do the authors refer to as Insufficient antenatal care?

Data Analysis: Please acknowledge the manufacturers of EPI Info and SPSS software.

Why do you need to export from Epi info to SPSS??

What statistical analysis were the data actually subjected to?

Results: p.6:

line 144: Mean should always be accompanied by +/-2SD. Please add these for all mean values.

p.7 line 166: Were anemia and HIV primary causes of dearth? were there no other factors operational? Does it imply the women died from anaemic heart failure or terminal stages of AIDS in pregnancy? Confirm that the women did not have any form of haemorrhage the effects of which were accentuated by the anaemia etc.

Conclusion p 10:

That anaemia accounted for two thirds of the causes of maternal mortality has to be re addressed after clarifying issue raised above.

Table 2

Re classify abruption placentae and placenta praevia correctly under haemorrhage - and this should change a lot of your percentages on your result section.

Minor essential revisions

Table 1

In assessing the level of education - were these completed or attempted primary
or secondary schools? Classification using Socio economic classes would be more informative.

Discretionary revisions
p5. line 112/116: Remove BM and JR as well as ABP and CP. Rather use their designations eg Principal investigator etc.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interest