Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of antenatal care on perinatal outcomes in Kwale district, Kenya: cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2007

Reviewer: Franz Majoko

Reviewer’s report:

General

It was good to review this paper. The style of writing was clear. The objectives of the study and methodology were clearly described.

The discussion was well balanced. The relation of number of visits to perinatal outcomes is a complex one and the most likely explanation is that women with complicated pregnancies attend more frequently but in most cases, especially in low resource settings, there are no interventions that can alter the adverse pregnancy outcomes.

I share the authors’ views that qualitative research may improve our understanding of what influences women to attend for antenatal care and help to explain the paradoxical finding of higher number of visits among women further away from health facility.

Identification of elements of ANC that improve pregnancy outcomes remains a challenge. Unfortunately the authors suggest no factors that could be further examined.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Last sentence in abstract needs reviewing.

What next?: Accept without revision

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

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