Reviewer's report

Title: Criteria for clinical audit of women friendly care and providers' perception in Malawi

Version: 1  Date: 11 May 2008

Reviewer: Justus Hofmeyr

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed an important topic relevant to the care of women, particularly in low-income countries.

1. The question is well defined
2. The methods are appropriate to a point. It would be useful to have more information on the process of criteria-setting, whether this followed a formal evaluation process or was by simple consensus.
3. The data appear sound, though rather limited. It would be useful to have confidence intervals around the percentage response to the closed questions, and more information on the responses to the open-ended questions in the staff questionnaire.
4. The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition
5. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.
6. Comment on limitations of the work would be useful.
7. There does not appear to be any lack of acknowledgement of background work.
8. The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.
9. The writing is of a high standard.

Discretionary revisions:

10. It would be useful if the authors could give attention to the points raised above
11. Would be useful to refer to previous studies, particularly randomized control trials, indicating how difficult it is to change practice and improve outcomes in maternal care, eg:


12. It will be useful if the authors could give specific details of the follow-up planned to assess the effectiveness of the intervention.

**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