Reviewer's report

Title: Making stillbirths count, making numbers talk - Issues in data collection for stillbirths

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Reviewer: Ingela Rådestad

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Making stillbirths count, making numbers talk – Issues in data collection for stillbirths

It is not a minute too early; an international consortium of leading figures in the field jointly formulates ways to go forward. Simply counting stillbirths is the first step to prevention. The article encompasses a gigantical intellectual effort, we who are interested in stillbirth and the future parents are to be congratulated for this achievement.

The article addresses an important problem of interest to a broad audience. The authors present novel arguments and insights into existing work and the piece is well argued and referenced. Logical arguments are put forwards and it is easy to follow the reasoning.

Discretionary revision

I have worked hard to try to find suggestions for refinement. The authors may consider taking a stronger position and point out the most important improvements they want to achieve by implementing the Case ID form. Do the authors want to improve research in this field or do they want to improve quality indicators? Is the main goal to retrieve data for comparing high, middle and low income countries? If the goal is to collect quality indicators, some few factors measured with high quality are probably better than to have the ambition to measure many factors. The Case ID form (Figure 4) is very ambitious, non-participation may lessen and sensitivity and specificity in the measurement increase by simplifying. Results may be better if fewer variables are measured.

Minor essential revision:

The article is well written. Terminology can be more stringent." Rich vs. poor countries" can be erased and "high, middle and low income countries" or “high and low resource communities” used consequently.

Accept after minor essential revision.

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 interest below