Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 24 November 2009

Reviewer: Russell Kirby

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a commendable job in addressing the many reviewer comments on the previous version. There are no major compulsory revisions. However, here are some editorial suggestions that would improve the manuscript:

p 6: near midpage, MeSH is spelled Mesh in one instance only.
p 7: just before section heading, put ICD in brackets as it is an acronym that is used from that point on
p 7: consider changing the heading presently titled 'Discussion' to 'Issues in Collection of Data on Stillbirths'. Typically, a discussion section appears at the end of a paper, not near its beginning.
p 9: near bottom, consider changing 'in charge of' to 'responsible for'
p 12: first sentence in new section. Use of the word 'vary' implies a mathematical relationship between causes/timing and prevalence of stillbirth across countries. This reviewer wonders if this has been established - and if so, cite a reference, and if not, use more specific wording in this sentence or make into two.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'