Reviewer's report

Title: Care Seeking for Fatal Illness Episodes in Neonates: A Population-based Study in Rural Bangladesh

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2011

Reviewer: Peter Waiswa

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the manuscript: Care Seeking for Fatal Illness Episodes in Neonates: A Population-based Study in Rural Bangladesh.

The manuscript should be of interest to the global community with interest in newborn health. Here are my comments:

Discretionary Revisions

None

Minor Essential Revisions

None

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In abstract, add more information on how data was analysed.
2. In the methods section of the body of the manuscript, please make the following changes:
   i. Be detailed in analysis since you have a reasonably big number of deaths. Go beyond univariate analysis by performing multi-variate analysis.
   ii. Since this is a DSS, socio-economic data must available. If so, include this in the analysis.
   iii. Provide more information on the study setting i.e Matlab especially in terms of health services access and neonatal related interventions.
3. In the results section, please be more detailed especially after conducting more detailed analysis as recommended above. Also include results related to care –seeking for deaths which occurred on day one as circumstances here are more related to maternal care compared to deaths which occur on subsequent dates. (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
4. In the discussion section, please be more detailed. Also include the limitations of the study and a clearly defined conclusions section.

Possible useful reference:
Waiswa P, Karin Kallander, Stefan Peterson, Goran Tomson, George W. Pariyo. Using the three delays model to understand why newborn babies die in eastern Uganda. Tropical Medicine & International Health Vol15; 8, August 2010, 964-972

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests