Reviewer's report

Title: Partner Notification for sexually transmitted diseases in developing countries: a systematic review

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Reviewer: Patty J Kissinger

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting review paper of partner notification for STD in developing countries. The paper is well written and will be interested in STD public health researchers, but there are a few things that would make it even easier to follow:

Essential:

Could the authors please clarify what specific STDs they are targeting? On page 3, the authors talk about PN for HIV, but the rest of the paper appears to be devoted to non-HIV STDs. On page 5, it says the search was limited to syphilis, Chlamydia and gonorrhea and then on page 6 they say it was limited to curable bacterial STDs. PN for syphilis and HIV are likely to have different impact and cost effectiveness strategies than for PN for Chlamydia and gonorrhea and may need to be considered separately.

While alluded to in some areas of the paper, it would be helpful if the authors could comment in gender differences in the outcomes since power differences in sexual partnerships in developing countries can be so great.

Why is the information on patient-delivered medication approaches presented in the discussion rather than the results and why is it not one of the main outcomes examined?

Trial is misspelled on page 5, last para.

Discretionary:

It would be helpful to know what the policies are on PN in the countries included.

The tables are very nice, but it would be helpful if Table 1 was sorted either by continent or type of PN or some criterion.

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.