Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal health care professionals’ perspectives on the provision and use of antenatal and delivery care: a qualitative study in rural Vietnam

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Reviewer: Chung-Yi Li

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that does present some useful data and this is clearly relevant to practice. It needs some work though;

1. This is a qualitative study and the authors did not justify their use of a qualitative approach to study these phenomena, especially using the focus group design. What was it about and why was it suitable to study the phenomena of this particular study?

2. There were too many abbreviations in this paper to read clearly. Some of them could not match with the original terms, eg. LQD on p.6; SG and MKA on p.7; SIDA/SAREC on p.22. Please make an overall review and revise them again whenever necessary.

3. Please create a separate section for rigor and describe the strategies used to establish rigor in this study.

4. The authors did not demonstrate how to assess the data saturation in the data analysis after conducting four focus group discussions. Please elaborate a clearer step-by-step description of the process of data analysis and thematic development.

5. The authors reported professionals’ perspectives in the results, but did not provide how many professionals’ voices being heard in the text. I only see the quotations mentioned from the midwives and assistant physicians. How about the medical doctors’ perspectives? If there was any, it should be involved as the part of your study sample. Please report each participant’s quotation named by their participant number, and make the findings more representative.

6. The discussion section is clear, but I would like to see more relations of the study findings to the findings from international literature.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No to all of the above.