Reviewer's report

Title: Preventable maternal mortality: regional disparity and associated factors from the population-based maternal mortality surveillance system in China

Version: 2 Date: 15 August 2010

Reviewer: ANIEKAN ABASIATTAI

Reviewer's report:

1. The questions posed by the authors are well defined, however in the methods section it is not clear how many obstetricians investigated the maternal deaths; were these prior to the study?
2. The second paragraph in the methods section can be deleted.
3. Under discretionary revisions; the different subjects of investigation in the methods section would have made more sense if the authors used the delay model described by Deborah & Maine.
4. It would have been good to include type of care offered in the respective facilities and the type & quality of staff who attend to obstetric emergencies in the facilities in the areas discussed.
5. The data is sound and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.
6. The limitations of the work are not clearly stated.
7. There are very many topographical & grammatical errors in the Abstract which may need modification to actually convey how the work was done & what was found.
8. 

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.