Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Associated with Place of Death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2012

Reviewer: Joachim Cohen

Reviewer's report:

The revisions made by the authors pay attention to the comments I raised in my previous review and the research questions and results are now framed much better within the African context.

I believe that this has considerably improved the paper.

However, I still believe that there is insufficient effort to explain the findings within a broader social context and that as a result the paper is still too positivistic.

The authors explain the found patterns in terms of the access to healthcare facilities and this is an improvement as compared with their previous explanations. However, I'm not fully satisfied with their explanations and a more complex explanation, based on social theory and qualitative studies about end of life care provision in Africa, should be presented to give insight into the mechanisms, beliefs, and practices that underlie the patterns the authors found.

The found patterns are that relatively few die in health facilities and that some factors (such as being higher educated, being married) seem to influence place of death in an opposite way than in developed countries.

This whole of patterns should be explained in a manner that helps to understand them (focus on understanding rather than explaining). This may include issues of access to care, but also patterns, attitudes, norms, and beliefs regarding taking care of dying friends and families in the community.

A broader perspective is thus needed to understand the findings within a subSaharan African context.

I would suggest that the authors include a last paragraph in their discussion (but before the conclusion) that does an effort to better understand the complex reasons underlying the patterns the authors found (ie low proportion of deaths in facilities, higher educated dying more often in hospitals, ...). Apart from access to care also cultural and social beliefs and attitudes are likely to be an important influence. These should be explained.

Minor comments:

In the abstract the authors still use 'end their life'

Table 2 mentions crude odds ratios and adjusted odds ratios but I only see one column with ORs
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests