Reviewer's report

Title: High rates of burnout among maternal health staff at a referral hospital in Malawi: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 1 April 2011

Reviewer: Stacey M Donofrio

Reviewer's report:

This article discusses an interesting phenomenon. Burnout in health care is a serious issue that should be researched more. The results of research should also be taken into account in hospital policy. Measures should be taken to prevent staff from burnout and nurses and doctors suffering from burnout should be offered help.

Minor essential revisions
1. why are Cronbach’s alphas for the MBI in this study not presented? Only information from other studies is provided.
2. explain how many nurses meet the MBI criteria for burnout. Currently, only separate percentages for each subscale are presented. This is interesting, but it would be relevant to know how many nurses experience clinical levels of burnout.
3. In the second paragraph of the discussion, a reference to Hayter is missing.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.