Reviewer’s report

Title: Health facility committees and facility management - exploring the nature and depth of their roles in Coast Province, Kenya

Version: 2 Date: 3 August 2011

Reviewer: Peter Hatcher

Reviewer’s report:

This article contributes to knowledge, particularly in its description and assessment of the different perceptions of management roles of Health Facility Committees (HFCs), and in its assessment of the experience of and obstacles to strengthening the management roles of HFCs through the piloting of Direct Facility Financing (DFF) in Coast Province, Kenya. Limitations of the study are stated, including the qualifications of the relevance of the findings outside Coastal Province and the potential for bias reporting by those respondents benefiting indirectly from the DFF programme and directly from HFC allowances.

It is hoped that these findings are helping to inform the national role out of DFF as well as the revised HFC guidelines in Kenya.

Minor discretionary revisions to authors revised article:

P.8. 2nd Paragraph, line 16, substitute: (see Box 1) - for: (see Box)
P. 17, 2nd Paragraph, lines 3 & 4, please add the word However at the beginning of the sentence: There was no difference in the general pattern of responses on the spending of DFF funds across districts.
P. 25 2nd Paragraph, lines 4 & 5, please include the following phrase deleted by the author as it adds relevant, valuable information: all of whom are required to have completed secondary education

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