Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of a quality improvement intervention to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) at Zambia Defence Force facilities

Version: 1 Date: 1 June 2013

Reviewer: Omotayo Bolu

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

Abstract:

Methods: It is not clear what statement is being made about the facilities’ infrastructure and support system? Last statement says “Bi-variate and multi-variate analyses were done “ of “ or is it “on” something or is it on certain variable? Please clarify

For people who are new to SMB-R Complete the sentence on what SBMR does “SBMR identifies weakness, develops action plan and then what does it do, invest in implementing the action plans???

Baseline and Endline numbers were not always the same. How sure is one that these are truly comparable if the numbers at baseline is more than the numbers at endline. It will be good to explain why the differences and how it can or cannot affect the outcomes. A mention in the limitation can also be done. For example “A total of 387 ANC clients were observed; they included 93 clients at intervention sites and 98 clients at comparison sites during the baseline round of data collection and 86 clients at intervention sites and 100 clients at comparison sites during the end line round.” Was there a reason to have higher numbers at comparison site?

Results:

Page 16: Notably, provider performance at comparison sites remained stable for PMTCT and actually declined for ANC, suggesting that the SBM-R intervention was indeed responsible for the improvement in provider performance at intervention sites. Not sure how this statement is true

Discussion: It is a useful paper and a discussion on how it can be used at a national level as well as the potential estimated cost will be helpful for other programs interested in using the SBM-R.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'