Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of antenatal care services at public health facilities of Bahir-Dar Special Zone, Northwest Ethiopia.

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2013

Reviewer: Sven Gudmund Hinderaker

Reviewer's report:

This is a paper addressing ANC for women in a district in Northern Ethiopia, and trying to evaluate the quality of government ANC services in order to improve services. Some predictors of satisfaction of specific services were identified, and some general recommendations were given. The topic is important.

There are issues to improve.

Major compulsory revisions
1. Follow the instructions for preparing the document! ALL tables must be AT THE END of the document, not in the text.
2. Do not call open-ended questions qualitative research. Open-ended questions are good, but the term qualitative research encompasses much more rigorous methods.
3. Outcome measure must be better explained. The 12 questions and their score is a mystery how to calculate and what a score means.
4. Results section is far too long listing results. It should only repeat selected important findings from tables.

Minor Essential
1. Abbreviations must be explained, TT, E.c
2. Background mentions "probability of health outcomes". Must be changed into ".of bad health outcomes"
3. Reference #1 is not the guidelines as suggested in the text.
4. Indicate in introduction how much ANC services are from NGOs.
5. Selection was systematic. Please indicate how.
6. Give all premises for sample size calculation
7. Delete Chi-square, p-value is sufficient in all tables.
8. In Table 2, what does "mean" satisfaction levels indicate? The scores for each category is not given. Is it worst=1, best=5? Mean score of 21.9 is not possible to see how it is reached.
9. In table 3 p-values can be deleted, as long as 95% CI are given.
10. Table 3 title should specify "Predictors of satisfaction more than average..."
11. Explain how sample size can explain difference from DHS results. A large sample gives better precision. Since this study is different the implication here is that THIS study is small and statistically outlier. That was not the intention of the sentence??

12. In conclusion it is stated that ANC is important, but it should also be mentioned that the current strategy focuses on Emergency Obstetric Care, and a comment on the role of ANC in this respect would be welcome.

13. Data collectors were students. Mention as potential bias that they are regarded as part of the health team and may not have got independent (unbiased) responses. Mention as weakness under "information bias".

14. Explain the practical meaning of a good Chronbachs alpha.

15. References need to be formatted EXACTLY as the guidelines indicate.

16. Language needs a brush, it is well understandable but sometimes broken

Discretionary revisions:
1. Avoid term "late term", use "term" or "late pregnancy", "close to term"
2. Data collection is March-April. State which season it is and its consequences for attendance, especially from rural areas
3. The paper finds that those who visit ANC also are more satisfied. Of course they are, otherwise they might drop it. Remember, this may indicate that a returning client is a satisfied client. Rather obvious, but it gives better impression that the authors state the obvious as well. So returning client= satisfied client.... to some extent.

**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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.