Reviewer's report

Title: Do health systems delay the treatment of poor children? A qualitative study of child deaths in rural Tanzania.

Version: 5 Date: 17 December 2012

Reviewer: Helen J Smith

Reviewer's report:

The authors seem to have addressed all of the comments made in previous reviews. The structure is better and the writing style improved.

However, I am still concerned that, despite collecting data from interviews with 16 women, the authors seem to refer to one case, sometimes two, only throughout the results. This is a point I raised in my original review - that the authors appear to miss the opportunity provided by qualitative research to uncover insights, meanings and what is really important to these mothers by comparing and contrasting across the cases. It would be far more meaningful to use all of the data available and demonstrate that the themes identified were in fact based on careful analysis of all cases, highlighting similarities and differences between them.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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