Reviewers report

Title: The influence of health facility related factors on HIV testing and counselling; a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2013

Reviewer: Kofi Amponsah

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MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

The authors explored an important issue in the area HIV prevention. The topic is considered an important and relevant area in its field and generally, the research had well defined questions.

Abstract

The abstract was generally good and was able to convey the purpose and outcome of the study. The only revision is at the results section, ‘as reported by 29’. There should be a percentage sign attached to the figure.

Methods

Methods employed by the authors were appropriate. The adoption of qualitative methods in exploring in-depth expectations and experiences and this helped bring out better understanding of the issues explored. However, authors need to make some minor revisions.

• Page 6 - Sub metro should be sub-metro
• Page 6 - The statement ‘Simple random sampling ballot in which health facilities offering PMTCT….’ under study population and sample should be revised.
• The study methods indicate that respondents were recruited by facilities from each sub-metro. Authors should state how many respondents were recruited from each of the facilities to further throw light on the recruitment of respondents
• Page 6 – ‘…YES’ and ‘NO”, were put in a box for pick b respondents’. The ‘by’ was without y.
• Page 7 (under ethical consideration) - ‘Confidentiality anonymity was adhered to’. This statement should be revised.

Results

Generally, results were well outlined by the authors. The presentation of views from the qualitative analysis enriched the quantitative outcome and provided insight into the actual experiences of the pregnant women at the facility. There are some minor revisions:

• Page 8 – ‘…. 76% of the respondent s had gone….’– respondent s should be respondents
• Page 8 (paragraph 4) – ‘….HIV testing and counselling as expressed by 29.5%
by respondents’ – ‘by’ should be of

• Page 8 (last paragraph) -please rephrase statement -‘…..disclosed they had to
do it because they were told it was compulsory they were coerced to do it’

• Page 9 (paragraph 2) – please rephrase – ‘A respondent had this to say
reported’

• Page 11- The participants explained when they present they present at health
facility. ‘they present’ was repeated

Discussions and conclusions

The authors provided sound discussion to the findings of the study and related it
to relevant literature. The limitations were also clearly stated. The general writing
was good. However, respondents could rephrase some of the inserted views of
respondents to make them concise.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:

No competing interest