Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants and pattern of care seeking for preterm newborns in a rural Bangladeshi cohort

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2014

Reviewer: Hui-Min Hsieh

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This study examined factors that were associated with care seeking for qualified and unqualified providers. Data were collected prospectively in Bangladeshi from mother-live born baby pairs two weeks after birth. Andersen’s socio-behavior model was used as conceptual framework for investigating utilization. Binomial and multinominal logistic regressions were used as statistical tools.

This is an interesting and well-written paper. Anderson model is appropriately used in the study. I only have few minor comments for this paper.

1. In the last paragraph above the conclusion section, the authors indicated the issue of survival bias because the data were collected two weeks after birth. Does this bias affect the results? Any possible explanations or approach to know whether this group of babies who might not survive but their parents did seek help from providers?

2. In the conclusion and discussion, the authors provided two suggestions for improving care seeking from involving providers in health education program, and integrating care seeking messages into antenatal counseling. However, from the authors’ illustration, I think the biggest problem is insufficient health care resources in the delivery system. If parents need to take 2.5 hours by bus to seek care in a long distance, in an urgent condition, care seeking is not helpful because vulnerable babies cannot bear long distance traveling. Is it possible to facilitate needed health resources in near distance facilities in that neighborhood?

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.