Reviewer's report

Title: Primary Healthcare worker knowledge related to prenatal and immediate newborn care: a cross sectional study in Masindi District, Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 10 December 2013

Reviewer: Heather Sipsma

Reviewer's report:

The authors were very responsive to the comments and I believe their paper is considerably stronger. I have included some smaller recommendations and comments for the authors to consider.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. My most substantial comment is for the authors to consider using a different terminology for their knowledge variable of interest. For instance, “knowledgeable” vs. “unknowledgeable” or “adequate” vs. “inadequate” knowledge or even “high” vs. “low” knowledge might better communicate what is being measured. The “more” or “less” (comparative) language is confusing; I needed to continually remind myself who it’s compared with…

Abstract – The abstract is too long (limit is 350 words; currently around 420). Here are a few ways to reduce current the word count.

2. Methods: Please remove coding information and information about the statistical package from the abstract. Indicate only (after identifying the four main areas of knowledge) that the chi-square statistic was used to examine associations between knowledge and independent variables, including… You may also remove the sentence about the Bonferroni adjustment.

3. Results: Please remove the fractions from the abstract; since you have already indicated the denominator of the fractions (183) and the percentage, the fractions themselves are redundant and offer no new information.

4. Results: Also, the authors should be clear who they are comparing categories with – for instance, “being a nurse was significantly associated…” compared with the other professions? Was the comparison nurse vs. non-nurses?

Manuscript –

5. Last sentence of the first paragraph: “…postnatal period is crucial for reducing…”

6. Last full sentence on page 4 – “In eastern Uganda, low levels of knowledge among health workers regarding prenatal and newborn care was considered a major determinant of neonatal mortality.”

7. First sentence, next paragraph (top of page 5) – “In Uganda, although nearly all pregnant women make at least one antenatal care consultation with a health worker, only…”
8. Top of page 10 – “ranged from 1 to 32 years” (to consistently use numbers throughout)

9. Page 10 – capitalize T for labeling your tables throughout (e.g., “Table 1”)

10. Why did the authors choose to split “years of service” at 5? Why not use it as a continuous variable?

11. Page 15 – “nurses” should not be capitalized

12. Additionally, it may be that healthcare workers with fewer years of service should be more knowledgeable since their training/education was more recent than those who have served for longer. These workers should have the more recent/updated recommendations.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.