Reviewer’s report

Title: Integration of HIV care into maternal health services: a crucial change required in improving quality of obstetric care in high HIV prevalence countries

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Reviewer: Adobea Owusu

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'Integration of HIV care into maternal health services: a crucial change required in improving quality of obstetric care in high HIV prevalence countries'

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BMC International Health and Human Rights

In my view the paper is scholarly and has a lot to offer for the betterment of health care, and research in the area of maternal health care and HIV and AIDS. I think it is well written. The objective of the paper is very clear and well articulated/communicated. The content is very important and timely.

The paper can be improved by paying attention to the following

1. Abbreviations still need to be spelt out the first time they appear in both the abstract and the main paper, and then put intro brackets, for example, HAART, CD4, etc. Rationale: not everyone who will read this paper is a specialist in the area of the authors

2. Undertake some editorial work in the paper : page 1, line 9 under “introduction”---, instead of ‘… the infant outcomes…’, have ‘…that infant outcomes….’;

pg. 2, line one, delete ‘the’ which appears before ‘…severe headache…’;

pg. 2, third para…delete an indication of bookmark error;

pg. 2, para 3, line 5, ‘…factors that contribute to…’ will ‘factors that explain’ be a better word?;

pg. 3, paragraph 2 needs substantial language/grammar editing;

pg. 3: ‘No blame, No shame’ should be ‘No blame, no shame’.

3. Provide references/support with examples of studies/authors for some parts of the paper: examples—

pg. 2: 2nd para, line 6, briefly add information on what these stages—3 and 4 of HIV diseases are.

pg. 2, para 3, last but one sentence from the bottom of para: there is the need to cite some sources/references for these issues (inadequate senior leadership…etc)

pg. 3, para 3 (para just above ‘conclusion’): ‘Advocacy….several countries.’ This needs supporting them with references, or failing that, cite examples of cases
you know in relation to this issue.

4. Others:

pg. 2, para 2, line 5 from bottom—‘…revised to less than a week…’: is this for HIV infected pregnant women or for all? Please, specify

pg. 3., para 1, line 5 from bottom: ‘impressive body of knowledge addressing human resource deficit….’ Is this for human resource for health care? If so, specify

pg. 3, para 2, line 2, ‘… a systems approach…’ Briefly explain what this is.

pg. 3, para 2, it is better to cite Mozambique as an example (Mozambique ,for example, ……)

pg. 3, Conclusion: Consider commencing it with the problem statement in brief.

pg. 3, conclusion, line 2: historical precedence…instead of precedent

pg. 3, para 2: ‘high HIV prevalence countries… “…prevalent” instead?

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

**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.