Author’s response to reviews

Title: Umbilical cord care in Ethiopia and implications for behavior change: a qualitative study

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Author’s response to reviews:

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To the Editorial Committee of
BMC International Health and Human Rights,

I am writing to submit the manuscript entitled, “Umbilical cord care in Ethiopia and implications for behavior change: a qualitative study” for publication in BMC International Health and Human Rights. There is currently strong research and programmatic interest in the reduction of newborn mortality which is an important contributor to overall high child mortality rates in developing countries. Poor umbilical cord care practices enhance risk of infection, one of the most important causes of newborn mortality.

The study on which this manuscript is based conducts a detailed investigation of local perspectives and practices related to umbilical cord care in diverse regions of Ethiopia and uses findings to make recommendations for the design of behavioral change messages and related interventions aimed at improved cord care. The manuscript therefore addresses a currently pressing programmatic issue in international health which will therefore be of interest to the journal.

On the basis of suggestions in the Qualitative Research Review Guidelines, I have made the following improvements to the original version of the manuscript submitted to BMC:

1) Research questions stated and linked to existing empirical research
2) Study design justified
3) Criteria for selecting study sample justified
4) Interview tools provided (Please check citation)
5) End of data collection justified in terms of rationale for determining sample size
6) Indication that participants were assured of anonymity and confidentiality
7) Derivation of themes described and analysis of data further clarified
8) Basis on which quotes are selected described
9) Method of ensuring reliability and trustworthiness of the data described.

Many thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Yared Amare, Ph.D.