Reviewer's report

Title: Joint special issue, E.25: 'On-site' versus 'off-site' facilitation: a randomised trial of outreach strategies for scaling up kangaroo mother care

Version: 1 Date: 21 January 2008

Reviewer: Adriano Cattaneo

Reviewer's report:

The study addresses a well defined question in a rigorous way and with adequate methods. The results are well and fully reported, the discussion and conclusion are sound.

Major Compulsory Revisions: none

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Page 4, first paragraph. If KMC is defined as written in the text, then refs 6 (a review of skin to skin contact in healthy term babies) and 8 (a RCT in unstable LBWI) are irrelevant.

Discretionary Revisions:

2. It would be interesting to have some details about the three centres of excellence used for group B: type of hospital, location, distance, reasons for choosing as centre of excellence.

3. Figure 5, results and discussion. In pairs 1 to 12 group A do better than group B hospitals; the reverse is true from pairs 13 to 18. Though the statistical analysis is correct, it would be interesting to know if there were some features in pairs 13 to 18 that made them different from pairs 1 to 12.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.