Reviewer’s report

Title: Translating research into maternal health care policy: a qualitative case study of the use of evidence in policies for the treatment of eclampsia and pre-eclampsia in South Africa

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2008

Reviewer: Stephen Robert Hanney

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Overall this a very interesting article that addresses an important question where there have been few previous good studies from low and middle income countries. It uses highly appropriate methods to gather data that are then skilfully analysed against some of the main analytical frameworks in this field.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Page 4, 2nd para, 3rd line: should read 'have led' not 'have lead';
2. Some of the headings do not quite match the journal style, eg Aim should be a sub-heading within the Introduction, and Ethical Issues should be a sub-heading within Methods.

Discretionary Revisions:
3. Whilst acknowledging that it can often take some years to get from data collection to submission of an article, I think the paper might be strengthened if there was some attempt either briefly to describe the current policy position or, perhaps more realistically, to make an explicit statement of the period covered by the analysis. In the current version page 11 refers to, 'a review of the recent policies' and the timeline ends in 2003.
4. The Conclusion section of the abstract highlights the importance of networks and whilst this is clearly described in the Discussion and Conclusion, perhaps some mention of this should also come into the end of the first paragraph of the Discussion to balance the reference to the knowledge driven model.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

See above