Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal and perinatal guideline development in hospitals in South East Asia: the experience of the SEA-ORCHID project.

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2009

Reviewer number: 2

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Discretionary Revisions.

The question posed is specific and well defined. It is new, but I have some concerns about the viability of the question- namely that clinical guidelines can be developed in local hospitals. It would be helpful to have more background information about development/use of CPGs in local settings as most of the references are from national guideline programs. This could reflect the reality that the complexity and cost of developing CPG’s means that multiple local production is not a cost effective use of resources for health systems and that it is more cost effective to develop regional or national guidelines for local adaptation. The authors do not cite (and it was probably not around when they were conducting the interviews) but the work of the GRADE working group published in the BMJ 2008 is helpful in providing methods for local adaptation of existing guidelines.

The methods are appropriate and well described, and are there are sufficient details provided to replicate the work.

The data appear to be sound. They are qualitative in nature and appear to conform to standards of reporting this type of data, although I am not an expert in qualitative methods.

The discussion and conclusions are reasonably well balanced and are adequately supported by the data, however it would be useful to know what we know as a result of this project that we didn't know before, (ie what this study adds to our knowledge) and how this project will proceed/or what they would recommend in light of their findings –do they think these barriers can be overcome? How? What solutions/ research would they propose as a next step

The title and abstract do accurately convey what has been found.

The writing is acceptable

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.