Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2009

Reviewer: Jane Thomas

Reviewer's report:

The authors seem to have taken into account the discretionary revisions suggested. One further Discretionary Revision comment Re: paragraph: “If evidence-based guidelines are going to be developed or adapted and implemented in these resource-poor environments, perhaps a more pragmatic approach is needed. It would be interesting to develop and test a simpler, more practical approach to guideline development and compare the results of this new approach against the established rigorous processes. Similar research in developed country settings would also provide useful information on to what extent the experience of guideline development is common across settings.

What are the simpler approaches that could be feasible? Is it possible to specify? There are other alternatives for example in the UK setting change has occurred through financial levers such as hospital insurance rating (CNST- each hospital has to have certain guidelines ) having these will save money on the insurance and regulation though clinical governance structures has been used to ensure hospitals have evidence based guidelines. So accepting the process maybe complex and require a change in culture in the organisation, incentives to have create/use other guidelines may help overcome these barriers and have other benefits to the organisations.

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.