Reviewer's report

Title: Obtaining emergency obstetric care in Gambia's main referral hospital: Women-users’ testimonies

Version: 1 Date: 9 November 2008

Reviewer: Ann Montgomery

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   - to be honest, I think there are several recent and well done studies on interviews with women on quality of care, all saying the same thing - so this is not a new subject and since the authors didn't do a review of the lit in their intro, it isn't made clear to me how this was a new yet unanwered question
   - see comment re stating the thesis - in Background and last para of intro

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   - not familar with qualitative methods to comment

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   - same as above

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   - same as above

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   - I believe the Discussion and Conclusion require a rewrite as the authors go beyond the scope of their paper in their clinical recommendations and don't report clearly on their aims (see comments on paper)

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   - again, if the authors defined their objectives more clearly, the title would be more clear - access, satisfaction and perception of quality of care - the title doesn't reflect this

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   - see comments, English is mostly understandable but requires editing
   - consistency with The Gambia and Gambia, Firstly and First

Major Compulsory Revisions - the authors need to tighten up there results as applied to their aims (perception of quality of care, how does this relate to satisfaction with care, acess and visce versa) and not leap into the tanget of actual quality of care - which wasn't evaluated by this study (but given the women's reports, appears to be below the international standard of care set by
the WHO Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth - but again, this evaluation was not the aim of the study)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare no competing interests