Reviewer's report

Title: Male involvement in birth preparedness and complication readiness for emergency obstetric referrals in rural Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 5 April 2011

Reviewer: Allisyn Moran

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The area of focus is important, as there is little evidence on birth preparedness and complication readiness plans and their association with outcomes.

The methods and results section need to be strengthened. The total number of women enrolled should be clearly stated in the beginning of the results section, as well as the number of refusals.

The methods needs to be more clearly described. What information was obtained from women’s report (age, parity, education, etc) and what was obtained from the medical records (complications??, etc).

In the methods section, please indicate whether tests for collinearity and interactions were conducted. It is possible that some co-variates would be correlated, especially occupation of spouse and education level, as well as education of husband and education of woman. Why is marital status not included in the adjusted analysis?

In the results section, please include some of the findings from the unadjusted and adjusted analysis, including citing odds ratios. It is difficult to follow the direction of the associations without including the odds ratios.

In the discussion section, please include a paragraph on study limitations. Questions on birth preparedness are asked after delivery, and therefore may be biased. Women may recall birth preparedness actions differently depending on the delivery experience and outcome of the baby. The sample is also only drawn from women who complied with referral to the referral facility, so it is not representative of the population. In addition, questions on male involvement were asked after the complication itself. Were husbands often present for the interviews? This may have biased the responses.

In the discussion section, on page 7, the authors state “Educated women have better pregnancy outcome compared with uneducated women”. Was this a finding in this study? If not, please provide a reference for this statement.

One of the aims of the study was to assess male participation in the birth plan and healthcare seeking for emergency obstetric referrals in rural Uganda. These data are presented in the tables, but not discussed in the discussion section. It
would be useful to cite the findings of this study, how that is similar or different than other studies, and recommendations for Uganda. Unlike some of the literature cited, it appears that husbands played significant roles in pregnancy and delivery in this study.

Minor Essential Revisions

In the tables, the total N should be included in each table.

In Tables 2 and 3, are multiple responses included?

Some editing is required.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests