Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of uptake of maternal health guidelines in Kosovo: qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2013

Reviewer: Jane Sandall

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
This paper reports on a multiphase study to explore the implementation of maternal health guidelines in Kosovo, focusing on determinants of uptake and methods to contextualize for local use. Understanding of context at a macro, meso and micro level is crucial in achieving affective guideline implementation. The study adds to knowledge regarding maternal health and importantly post-conflict health systems.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
The study involved a survey (n=39), individual interviews (n=5), focus groups (n=19) and a consensus meeting with relevant stakeholders, including clinicians (obstetricians, midwives), managers, researchers, and policy makers from the national Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization office in Pristina, Kosovo (n=18). The methods are reasonably described and tools provided.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
The response rate of a survey is unknown and this is a limitation to the study, although this was only one data source of several. A small number of participants were achieved for the interviews which were only conducted in English. It is unclear whether the focus groups and consensus meeting were conducted in English. This raises two concerns, the interview sample is very small, and the sample is biased towards English speaking participants.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The key concern is with the ability to draw conclusions from this case study to other settings, and I think this could be discussed in more detail.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes
7. Is the writing acceptable?
The paper is well written and limitations discussed.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests