Reviewer's report

Title: Team training in obstetric and neonatal emergencies using highly realistic simulation in Mexico: Impact on process indicators in a cluster randomized trial

Version: 2 Date: 2 June 2014

Reviewer: Susan Niermeyer

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The overall purpose of the report could be made clearer. Is this primarily an educational evaluation of a training intervention or implementation research? If an educational evaluation, there should be assessment of skills performance and decision-making, not only knowledge, self-efficacy, and teamwork. If the purpose is to evaluate the implementation more comprehensively, then a more formal and complete framework for implementation research should be described and reported upon.

2. The discussion alludes to efficacy and effectiveness, however, the report does not include data on change in performance in either the educational or clinical setting.

3. The section on organizational goals (in methods) needs more development, as it is a major portion of the intervention.

Do the events that occurred during simulation accurately reflect the major problems of the service as reflected in mortality statistics? How are administrators involved in helping carry out the changes? Is a PDSA cycle or other such mechanism used?

4. In the conclusion, cost is judged to be within reach of obstetrical services in low- and middle-income countries, yet no cost calculations are included in the methods or the results. Costs of the simulation trainer and video recording equipment represent only the materials costs and do not include the costs of faculty and participant time or travel to conduct in situ training. The relatively low participation rates suggest that the human costs may, in fact, be high.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. The presentation of methods and results might be better organized by first considering knowledge, self-efficacy, and teamwork and then the institutional goal achievement. This would allow for a progression from individual, to team, to institutional levels.

2. Midwives would seem to be a major stakeholder group, and were mentioned as facilitators, but not mentioned as participants. Are midwives classified as nurses in this report?
- Discretionary Revisions
n/a

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.