Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors Associated with Compliance with the Recommended Frequency of Postnatal Care Services in Three Rural Districts of Tanzania

Version: 2  Date: 2 June 2015

Reviewer: Estelle Monique Sidze

Reviewer’s report:

The study is interesting and have important findings. These are however some comments to addressed to strengthen the narrative.

Major Revisions

The paper is about factors associated with the compliance with the recommended 3 PNC visits. The method section states that 2 visits and more were collapsed for the regressions but results talk about the likelihood to receive ANY visit. The results section should be re-written to expand on factors associated with 2 visits and more.

In the limitations section: the first limitation stated as the study uses only a quantitative approach is not necessary to mentioned. The second limitation about the content of the visits does not make sense also considering the scope of the study. The third limitation regarding the definition of health care seeking behavior is quite interesting and questionable at the same time: do women have access to home care PNC visits by skilled professionals in Tanzania?

The age groups selected for the study: including women passed the reproductive window of 49 years (44 years actually in Africa) is problematic for the study. These women are more likely to have 6 children or more and less likely to use services at health facilities for antenatal, delivery or postnatal care. I would highly suggest to re-visit the analyses and found out the effects of variables when excluding women aged 44 and over. If you decide to keep the age group, a rationale and implications should be added in the narrative.

Discussion section: Pay attention to the reported findings. Religion does not have any effect as shown by table 2 but reported as a significant factor along with the ethnic group. The main interesting finding of the study I think concerns the negative effect of access to antenatal care and skilled delivery. It would be important to dwell more on these findings and explain why the effect with similar findings in the region (in rural areas) or by using interaction variables in your analyses. This finding is linked to your recommendation to provide PNC through community-based primary health care. What do you really understand by that?

Minor revisions

Lines 259 - 262. You are comparing local rural numbers with national numbers in
other countries. Not really suitable.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests.