Reviewer’s report

Title: Care of the Mother-Infant Dyad: a Novel Approach to Conducting and Evaluating Neonatal Resuscitation Simulation Training in Bihar, India

Version: 0 Date: 03 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Robert Allen

Reviewer’s report:

An interesting simulation study that evaluated mid-level providers in dealing with neonatal and maternal complications. As expected, as each nurse performed additional simulations she became more efficient in warming and drying the infant, and in beginning neonatal resuscitation. The conclusion, however, claims potential application to mitigating neonatal mortality. There is no basis for that conclusion as no finding was statistically significant, and more significantly, no finding was clinically significant.

Any simulation training should demonstrate improved clinical outcomes as many have before (Draycott 2008, Msemo et al 2013, Bhutta e tal 2014). Where no improvement has reported after training is a reflection of a lack of training quality.

A number of other limitations need to be addressed before this work should be considered again for publication.

1. A tie in to clinical outcomes data before training and after. This may have to wait until rounds two or three.

2. Present data on how trainees fared in dealing with post-delivery maternal complications.

3. While there are mixed results for the NRP and HBB approaches, they have mostly been clinically beneficial. That PRONTO is training in multiple complications is a unique feature of your approach and should be stressed.

4. That videos were analyzed professionally is good. However, using a handful of them that are prescriptive of good technique and are proscriptive of bad technique would be an excellent resource for teaching. Although resuscitations were started 20 seconds faster, there is no metric of the quality of those efforts. Msemo et al showed that quality is key for improved clinical outcomes.

5. The 2nd and 3rd sentences of the background do not belong.

A worthy effort but it is premature for publication.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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