Reviewer's report

Title: Establishing partnership with Traditional Birth Attendants for improved maternal and newborn health: a review of factors influencing implementation

Version: 0 Date: 16 Mar 2016

Reviewer: Magdalena Ohaja

Reviewer's report:

- the authors stated clearly that this is a secondary analysis of 20 papers.

However, a definition of and the different types of TBAs would be helpful in the background.

However, the authors need to draw out more the implications of this intervention (TBAs new role) on TBAs power relation with the formal health care providers as well as women's ability to choose their place of birth. At what point should referral be made?

Typos in lines 185 and 204

Reference no 21 - nigerian should be Nigeria

A description/definition of and the different types of TBAs would be helpful in the background.

The authors need to draw out the implications of this intervention (TBAs new role) on TBAs power relation with the formal health care providers as well as the women's ability to choose their place of birth.

Estimation of what it cost to pay TBAs to take on new roles is mentioned (line 321-325). It is important to highlight whether maternity care is free for women in countries that implement this new TBAs role.
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.
Yes

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.
Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interest

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal