Reviewer’s report

Title: Illness recognition and care seeking for maternal complications of pregnancy and birth in rural Amhara and Oromia Regional States of Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 24 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Rahat Najam Qureshi

Reviewer's report:

the authors keep introducing their methodology as a mixed methods approach even through the material submitted is entirely following a purely qualitative approach.

authors have based their results on a 'structured narrative'. However, there is no reference to this neither have they elaborated a method through which they developed this.

It is not well understood how they arrived at the diagnosis of the morbidity in cases studied. Authors have stated the difficulty with getting information for these patients. But is this based entirely on the structured narrative or was any other methodology selected.

It is disappointing that even with a small sample of patients studied the authors have not provided a diagnosis in all cases.

An important finding in this work is the discovery of the 'perceived' symptoms and their severity. however, it is disappointing that the symptoms are not matched with underlying morbidity or diagnosis so as to give strength to this important finding.

The majority of cases in the sample hemorrhage is the morbidity thus restricting the results and findings.

Figure one and two are superfluous and not contributing to the clarity of information.

overall need for improving the presentation of the methodology.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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 interests

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