Author’s response to reviews

Title: Quality of Intrapartum and Newborn Care in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia

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Version: 1 Date: 04 Mar 2018

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Response to editors:

1. Thanks for the comments

• Yes, we did also take consent from the mothers to access their medical records. Before staring the data collection we had discussed and clarify with mothers and skilled birth attendants about the aim of the study, advantage and disadvantage, selection process, confidentiality issue and withdrawal from the study at any time. After taking verbal consent to observe, interview and use medical records during the care; we collected our data. However, if the mother or a skilled provider did not agree, we did not include them in the study. So, this study is based on the agreement of mothers after informed choice which we respects participants’ autonomy.

• Yes, in our study, we had included two mothers under the age of 16 and two under 18. Since our study does not have any invasive procedure (like blood drawing, taking samples, etc.), we did not take consent from parent or legal guardian. Since, our study is only observing the care given to mothers during childbirth (non-participatory). If mothers agreed to participate in this study, we considered it is enough. However, in case of invasive procedure, it is mandatory to take consent from parents or legal guardians. Our ethical guideline also allows us to take consent from adolescent mothers if she is above age 15, only in case of non-invasive procedure (harmless study). That is why we did not take consent from the parent or legal guardian of the adolescent mothers in this study. But, it would be better if we took the consent from the parent or legal guardian even case of non-invasive studies.

• Yes, we got received ethical approval (ERC0427 /2014) from the Ethical review committee since our study is harmless, it is simply an observation. Our main aim was simply to observe
how care is given to mothers during childbirth. However, we have agreed with your concerns.

2. Thanks

- We include the lists of figures after the reference.
- In the main text of the manuscript, Figure 1 is included after line number 187 and Figure 2 is included after line number 193

Sincerely,