Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring the quality of maternal and care processes at the time of delivery in sub-Saharan Africa: Development and validation of a short index

Version: 0 Date: 17 Aug 2016

Reviewer: Lorraine Walker

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. No major revisions.

- Minor Essential Revisions

2. Restate the study description on page 6, lines 104-106, with a statement of purpose so it is clear to readers what the authors sought to accomplish in this study.

3. In many disciplines the term "domain" relates to a substantive topical area covered by an instrument. Thus, the use of "domain" as a methodological concept on page 9 is/would be very confusing to many readers. I recommend to reduce confusion about how the term "domain" is used in this study that the authors make their use of this term more transparent by moving the text on page 9, lines 165-169 up earlier on this page, e.g., about line 157.

4. In Figure 3 the countries represented in these charts need to be identified.

- Discretionary Revisions

5. In the Abstract Background, insert "feasibility of" after "delivery hinders the"

6. Move the paragraph on page 12, lines 212-216, to page 6, line 106. The material on page 12 relates to the study purpose and is more logically placed on page 6.

Table 2, page 10, item 3: The domain and the benchmark are incongruent as written: the domain focuses on associations, but the benchmark focuses on items with NO association.

Table 2, page 10, item 4: insert "between" after "discriminate" for the domain.

For clarity, specify the indices being referred to on page 12, line 206.
Table 4: define in a footnote what a + and - signify.

Table 5: This table would benefit from a consistent style (see lines 4-6), and use a colon ":" to indicated subordinate items, and add a heading to the far left column.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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