Author’s response to reviews

Title: Increasing Utilisation of Perinatal Services: Estimating the Impact of Community Health Worker program in Neno, Malawi

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Technical Comments:

Editor's comments:
1. Please clarify whether you have received written informed consent from participants to participate in this trial. You currently state that you did not receive consent, studies of this nature do usually involve consent of some kind. Please can you clarify whether the ethics committees which approved your study have approved a waiver for consent. Please provide a more detailed reason as to why consent was not obtained.
The study is a retrospective evaluation of a community health worker program that was implemented as part of routine clinical work. As a result, the study reviews the facility changes to a CHW program intervention. No patient participants were prospectively enrolled in this study and the data used is de-identified and aggregated at facility. Therefore, we did not obtain informed consent from participants based as no participants were ever actively enrolled in care. We have therefore expanded the sentence to include this explanation.

2. BMC requires registration of all clinical trials that are reported in manuscripts submitted to its journals. Suitable publicly available registries are those listed on the ICMJE website as well as any of the primary registries that participate in the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, including the ISRCTN registry, which is administered and published by BMC.

The study is not a clinical trial, but a retrospective observation study evaluated using the quasi experimental design. As a result, we did not register the trial.