Reviewer’s report

Title: A health systems strengthening intervention to improve quality of care for sick and small newborn infants: results from an evaluation in district hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Version: 1 Date: 19 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Debra Jackson

Reviewer's report:

This is a clear and well written manuscript presenting findings from an evaluation of the KINC programme in South Africa. This project used a health systems approach rather than just a single focus approach which is much needed.

I have only a few minor suggested edits:

1) I feel it should be 'care FOR' small and sick newborns not 'OF' suggest correcting throughout manuscript, lines 72, 73, 76

2) Line 88 should be 'in' the SA National PPIP, not 'on'

3) Line 95 insert 'and' between plan and inadequate

4) Line 127 clarify briefly the difference between intensive care and high care, e.g. intensive care has artificial ventilation and other advanced care?

5) Line 140 please spell out MCWH as first use?

6) The figure titled "Total Quality of Care Score" Is too busy and does not add anything as it is well covered in the text, I would delete this figure

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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