Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) and Characteristics of Women Receiving abortion care in Tertiary Hospital in Nepal.

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Reviewer: Roger Rochat

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting manuscript--and especially useful in that it is not the main teaching hospital. The authors could strengthen it by describing the timing of recognizing complications. Were they all recognized at time of procedure? Or did some women return after leaving the hospital. Was there any systematic follow up of women who left the facility to determine whether or not they had complications? Any lack of systematic followup should be included in a limitations section in discussion. The annual trends in services would be more informative if they included trends by type of provider. Presently it is unclear when nurses began to provide CAC services. The authors do not make clear why abortions are provided in a hospital rather than in a clinic or physician office--is that because of the law? If the authors could provide a map of the hospital's location and primary service catchment area--and any other key providers in vicinity, that might help inform the decline associated with the last year.

Most critically, if 88% of the women were primigravid, how could over half state that they had completed family size? That is not credible. this is not a rigorous scientific comparison of complication rates for doctors and nurses and therefore should not draw the conclusion that nurses perform CAC as safely as doctors. This is an observational retrospective study that identified a lower complication rate for nurses than doctors. the authors raise at least two plausible reasons for this: first that nurses restrict CAC to abortions for pregnancies < 8 weeks gestation and second, that doctors are often early in their training, but the authors should be more descriptive and possibly humble about the quality or completeness of complication case ascertainment.

The authors may have other unstated reasons to promote nurses as providers of CAC services. They might state those reasons. they might also cite published experiences of non physician CAC providers elsewhere. Based on rigorous research on safety of early abortion services by licensed nurse practitioners, the State of California made such providers legal.
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.

Yes

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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