Author’s response to reviews

Title: Investigating the quality of family planning counselling as part of routine antenatal care and its effect on intended postpartum contraceptive method choice among women in Nepal

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Author’s response to reviews:

Point by Point response to reviewer

Reviewer reports:

Karen Hardee (Reviewer 1):

The authors have incorporated comments from reviewers in this version of the manuscript, which has strengthened it.

Authors: Thank you very much.

Anne Pfitzer, MHS (Reviewer 2):

I feel the authors have addressed my comments well. If they wish to buttress their addition of a recommended brochure for husbands, they can cite or refer to Cooper CM, Fields R, Mazzeo CI, Taylor N, Pfitzer A, Momolu M, et al. Successful proof of concept of FP and immunization integration in Liberia. Glob Health Sci Pract. 2015;3(1):71-84. That program sought to reach postpartum women with PPFP information and intrafacility referrals during immunization visits. But if a woman refused a referral, she was offered a brochure to take to and discuss with her husband.

Authors: Thank you. We have cited and added this paper in the list of references. Please see page 19, line 535 and reference 21 on page 26, line number 695-697.

Lastly, I appreciate that the authors have added content related to client-centered counseling in the discussion. But I would further advise removing the recommendation to discuss the pros and cons of each choice. Some counseling approaches, such as Balanced Counseling Strategy Plus use an algorithm to ask women questions about their circumstances and based on those responses eliminate any counseling on methods that are clearly not suitable for that client at that time. So for example, if a
client says she wants to have 3 children and this is her first pregnancy, there is no need to discuss the pros and cons of sterilization. or if she says her husband is not supportive of contraception, then there is no point in discussing standard days method, condoms or vasectomy (at least until her situation changes). But focusing on the range of methods that are appropriate for that client at that time is still high quality counseling. My earlier feedback about the value of this paper to the body of literature on PPFP counseling stands and I look forward to seeing the published article.

Authors: Thank you for your suggestions. We have revised this recommendation and it now reads as ‘to provide client-centered counseling on family planning methods’. Please see page 21, lines 586-588.