Reviewer's report

Title: Uterotonic use immediately following birth: estimating population coverage in four countries

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2014

Reviewer: Mercedes Colomar

Reviewer’s report:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
1. There is a new reference for the UN millennium goals estimation. You are making reference to WHO, 2012. But it is also available the UN report 2014.

MAJOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
The methodology implemented for the determination of the rates of use of UUIFB does not seem appropriate. Even though the authors referred to a background of studies using expert consensus to determine rates, the article from Campbell 2002 and the Maternal and Neonatal program effort index, does not describe estimation of rates through an expert panel neither its methodology. Then, it is unclear whether the methodology has been validated previously.

I have also searched into the pubmed using the Mesh terms “Delphi Technique”[Majr] AND "Outcome Assessment (Health Care)"[Mesh] but this search did not retrieve any article describing this use (estimation of parameters) for the Delphi technique. Moreover, considering that the results are based on the estimations provided by the key informants, a description of the number of participants (experts) and their positions should be included, followed by the criteria for selecting them. I think that a more detailed description of which positions, and why they were invited would give strength to the study.

These findings seems of low quality and much full of biased to be consider. It would give strength to include data/rates coming from previous studies that can be contrasted with the findings presented in this study, in order to validate them.

Considering that the methodology does not have a background, a suggestion would be to include a validation of the results in order to give strength and credibility to the methodology. The exercise could be replicated where estimates are available. Also it can be included previous studies reporting qualitative information regarding barriers of access to UUIFB, in order to support the key informants judgments.

The suggestions would be to provide:
1. A deeper explanation about the criteria for selecting the expert panel should be included as a description of the number of participants and positions whom actually participated.
2. Reference to previous studies estimating national parameters through experts
panel or a validation of the results should be included.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests