Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 August 2014

**Reviewer:** Stacie Geller

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a descriptive paper reporting an exercise conducted in four developing countries whereby expert panel of national stakeholders were convened to produce estimates of the use of a uterotonic immediately following birth (UUIFB) for each country. This is an important area of inquiry because UUIFB has been demonstrated to be an effective intervention to prevent postpartum hemorrhage, a leading cause of death in these settings. Despite the importance of UUIFB, no estimates regarding coverage are currently available at the country level.

Although actual measurement of UUIFB coverage is not feasible, the authors describe a systematic process by which the estimates of UUIFB were generated. The description is easy to understand and it appears to be a reasonable approach to the problem, although there is no gold standard for comparison. The authors are explicit about the limitations to the estimates produced by this process and identify appropriate uses for this information. This is a worthwhile manuscript that should be published with minor revisions.

Minor compulsory revisions

1. Please review the manuscript for grammar. There are slight errors throughout. For example, on page 7, line 154 should read "the degree of effort/costs involved in data collection." On line 156, the end of line should read "and are unlikely to capture UUIFB"

2. Your use of the word "cadres" with regard to who is sanctioned to provide uterotonics is awkward. Could you replace it with "groups" or another more commonly used word?

3. Figure 1 is confusing--what do the labels on the sides mean? Also, maybe it would be possible to add columns specifically for cost and feasibility so the reader could compare all approaches on each dimension?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.