Reviewer’s report

Title: The quality of medical death certification of cause of death in hospitals in rural Bangladesh: impact of introducing the International form of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

Version: 0 Date: 18 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Pam Groenewald

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper especially in light of international moves to strengthen CRVS especially in LMICS. The English is good. The paper could be improved however if some of the questions below are responded to

Methods could be better described with regard to the following:

1. Training of doctors and nurses in MCCD and good clinical record keeping
2. What was the format of the training - interactive, didactic lectures?
3. What training materials were used?
4. How long was the training session?
5. How many drs were trained in each session?
6. Was the doctor's comprehension of the MCCD tested immediately after the training?
7. How long after the training did they implement the new MCCD?
8. Were there any attempts to ensure inter-observer reliability between the two study physicians? If so how were any discrepancies resolved?

Results

1. To what extent is the poor quality of medical records to blame for the poor quality certification?
2. Could the quality of MCCD be tested using case scenarios where appropriate clinical data is provided, to remove the effect of poor medical records on the quality of the MCCD?
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.

Unable to assess

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

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

Acceptable

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