Reviewer’s report

Title: Realising the right to sexual and reproductive health: Access to essential medicines for medical abortion as a core obligation

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Reviewer: Johanne Sundby

Reviewer's report:

This is a policy paper on a controversial issue. It is well written and well argued. It will probably provoke some readers. But I agree with the conclusion.

It deals with the WHO essential list of medicines /and induced abortions.

I would include some information in the introduction, that would position the paper better. WHO is the one UN organization that HAS dealth with unsafe abortion and has claimed that abortion legislation reform may save lives. WHO should be acclaimed for this. It demonstrates why it is so awkward that they haven't followed this argument into the essential medicines list.

I think the paper can skip the reference to "maternal mortality" in the intro. This paper is about access to abortion drugs. That is the main issue. The drug misoprostol is recommended for use in hemhor rage. It can also be - with no reference to abortion law - be included as a treatment of abortion complications, as post abortion care.

It is also important to explain that abortion is not "legal" or "illegal". In most countries, abortion can be legal under certain circumstances, and "the full context of the law" should be an argument for inclusion of these medicines, regardless of laws and even regardless of human rights. It is simply a life saving drug.

I would ask the authors to look at this argument.

I also want them to deconstruct the terminology "culturally acceptable". WHOSE culture do we protect? Discuss.....
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Unable to assess

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