Reviewer's report

Title: 'Practice so that that skill does not disappear': Mixed methods evaluation of simulator based learning for midwives in Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 25 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Dylan Bould

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the opportunity of reviewing this paper. It's a great project and this sub-study looking at ways to encourage more low-dose high-frequency simulation is a valid area for focus. It's on the whole well written and adds some useful knowledge to this area that will be useful for implementation of other similar programs.

One small grammatical point - I believe that "training" is a verb and not a noun, and that there is no plural form. Perhaps "training sessions" would be preferable.

Were the simulation "practice sessions" supervised/guided at all in study arm 1?

Figure 1 is low-res and I can't really read it.

More information could be included on the qualitative methods, especially with respect to reflexivity and the study team, some aspects of study design (how were participants approached, how many refused to participate, setting of data collection, presence of non-participants, demographic data of the sample), data collection (are there any repeat interviews, how long were the interviews), analysis (how many data coders were there)

The use of/adherence to reporting guidelines such as COREQ may help with this. See https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/article/19/6/349/1791966

The illustrative quotations are very useful and a strength of the paper.

Signed, Dylan Bould, Ottawa
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An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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