Reviewer’s report

Title: Incremental cost and health gains of the 2016 WHO antenatal care recommendations for Rwanda: results from expert elicitation

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Ann-Beth Moller

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review this very important and interesting paper.

I only have very few comments.

I would like to clarify that the SDG target of an global MMR of 70 is a global target and not a country target. The target for Rwanda is a 75% reduction from 2015 to 2030 or an MMR of less than 140 by 2030.

The authors have included some discussion related to morbidity reduction in implementing 8 visits. It would be very useful if this discussion could be further elaborated.

The authors suggest that Rwanda adopt a phased approach related to the new ANC recommendation. I do not disagree about this approach but as all women do not currently even get the 4 visits it would be important to do some additional research why this cannot be achieved. Is the quality of care so poor that women do not want to attend ANC, are they not aware of the importance, cost etc. Why do women currently not attend in the first trimester?

I do not understand why the authors do not want to share the data set used for the analysis as it reads that "..... mainly previously published data are used....". It further reads "The data can be shared upon reasonable request". How do the authors define "reasonable request" and why do the authors not want to be transparent and share the input data?

One limitation of this study is the number of expert taken part in the Delphi process - do the authors considered 8 participants as sufficient?

Please check reference 13 and 14 as duplicates.

The definition of maternal deaths is an ICD-10 definition - please update reference.
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Acceptable

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