Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving the validity, relevance and feasibility of the continuum of care framework for maternal health in South Africa: a thematic analysis of experts’ perspectives

Version: 0 Date: 25 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Theresa Diaz

Reviewer's report:

Interesting qualitative study that adheres to good practice for qualitative studies. I would have hoped though there could have been some thematic analysis of which indicators are the best to remain or remove. Please include this into the discussion. For example, given the feedback you received what indicators would likely fall into the acceptable category, which indicators should be combined to create the co coverage scores suggested for multi sectorial?.

I do have some questions about the indicator list itself. Figure 1 does not actually specifically match the list of indicators in Table 1. Would be nice to know more about where these indicators come from as a few do not seem to make sense and there are many that are multi sectorial that may in actuality be measuring the same construct. Specific indicator questions I have are why is ANC number of visits not an indicator? Why is syphilis screening not an indicator? I do not understand indicator 18 outreach to those women who already had a post natal visit???

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