Reviewer’s report

Title: BARRIERS OR GAPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MISOPROSTOL USE FOR POST-ABORTION CARE AND POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE PREVENTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Version: 0 Date: 28 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Shelly Abdool

Reviewer's report:

This article contributes to the on-going discussion of the use of Misoprostol to prevent PPH through a systematic review of published and non published literature around gaps and challenges to its roll out. A first comment for the authors, is that the paper needs a comprehensive editing in English - it appears as if the paper was either written in a rush, or no English review was undertaken. This makes sections of the paper difficult to understand. Related to language, it is suggested to refer to safe abortion where appropriate (see page 4 where the word 'safe' appears to be missing).

The description of the methods is good (despite language issues). The description of the results appears to be within the framework of either Health System Building Blocks or Universal Health Coverage areas for action. However, the article makes no mention of either of these frameworks - nor are the results linked to the Every Woman, Every Child framework, 2030 Agenda or other global commitments around reducing maternal mortality and securing safer motherhood. It is recommended to situate both the need for this systematic review, the significance of the inclusion of misoprostol in the EML as of 2011, as well as the ways that addressing gaps in misoprostol use/roll out can help to fulfill current global agendas (EWEC, SDG, UHC, etc).

While the systematic review is on gaps and barriers, it is difficult to situate and understand the recommendations without having an idea of where, how and with which populations is Misoprostol being effectively rolled out. Including a small section on this would not only enhance the systematic review, but also this summary article.

Finally, the conclusions and recommendations do not address the issues around training of health care workers or the myths/fears about Misoprostol. Do the authors have any recommendations in this area?

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.