Reviewer’s report

Title: Delayed initiation of Antenatal Care and Associated Factors in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 18 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Moses Aikins

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Title: Delayed initiation of Antenatal Care and Associated Factors in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

General observation

The manuscript is generally a good one, but will require some language editing and should be spell checked. The authors have done well in reviewing and summarizing the available evidence on the concepts of maternal health. The topic is relevant; provides information about the possible causes of delayed initiation of antenatal care. This manuscript would be of interest to readers from developing countries who are interested in the evidence relating to causes of late antenatal care visits by women visiting the health facility. The manuscript contributes to improved evidence in delayed initiation of antenatal care and the associated factors in Ethiopia.

Abstract

The manuscript's abstract is also good and provides the reader a quick clear idea about the rational for the study and the results before reading the rest of the manuscript. However, it is 7 words longer than the required journal's abstract words of 350. It should be revised accordingly.

Other comments

1. The methods section is thorough and scientifically sound (but I do not have the competence to evaluate the suggested statistical approach).

2. The authors should provide more details on how the Cohen's Kappa (K) coefficient statistics was used to reach a consensus between the two reviewers of the articles.

3. There are other formatting errors the authors should correct (e.g. page 3 line 5.).

4. The referencing must be reviewed in accordance to the journal's style.
5. Authors should provide appropriate reference for Endnote.

6. The authors did not provide any information on participants' demographic characteristics.

7. The choice of subgroups for analyses should be justified, based on literature, or the individual studies and a hypothesis stated for each subgroup. For example, why do the authors think factors leading to delayed antenatal care will differ by (≥12 weeks) and (≥16 weeks) or age? Authors should also consider citing papers in delayed initiation of antenatal care literature.

8. Figure 1 (PRISMA flow diagram) is confusing regarding the total number of studies included in this review.

Decision

This manuscript is good for publication but the above comments should be taken into consideration in its revision.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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