Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors Influencing Men's Involvement in Antenatal Care Services: A Cross-Sectional Study in a Low Resource Setting, Central Tanzania.

Version: 0 Date: 11 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Monique Seymour

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. The manuscript, "Predictors of Men's Involvement in Antenatal Care Services: A Cross-Sectional Study in a Low Resource Setting, Central Tanzania" explored facilitators and barriers associated with partner involvement in maternity services. Overall, this study does provide important research and clinical insights in improving male involvement in maternity services in developing countries. While the findings of this study has the prospect of important research and clinical recommendations/implications, my main concern is that the discussion in its current form fails to adequately discuss these. The current arguments within the discussion are not strong, especially when there is frequent mention throughout regrading findings not being well understood. I also feel that there is too much discussion on how the current findings are similar to or differ from other studies, where more focus should be spent discussing the meaning and implications of the current results.

A few other suggestions:
* I encourage the authors to thoroughly reread their manuscript, or engage in professional editorial services, as there are grammatical and editorial errors throughout. At times writing could be more concise; some sentences tend to be long and confusing.

* Abstract: Please remove reference to 'motive' in the abstract as your study has not investigated men's motivation to participate in antenatal services. Consider using 'barriers', 'factors'.

* Introduction: consider moving the sentence "Worldwide each year about 210 million women become pregnant…" page 5, line 1. Its current place makes it sound like maternal health risks are due solely to lack of partner involvement, however there are many individual, interpersonal, community and socio-political factors that contribute to maternal morbidity and mortality.
  o Please be consistent in the use of abbreviations. The manuscript switches from antenatal care to ANC throughout. There are also abbreviations that are not written in full previously (e.g., MDGs), so lay readers will not be aware of what these stand for. Additionally, there is no need to use an abbreviation if you only refer to it once.
  o Please provide more context around the sentences: "The delay in making a decision to seek health care …" page 5, line 40; and "Awareness among men on pregnancy…” page6, line 6. Are these within African cultures, or found for men globally?
Methods and Materials:
- Within the Study setting and design section, please provide more demographic information on the representativeness of men living within Dodoma to men from Tanzania more broadly.
- Please provide more details on measures/variables, for example, you could list some of your actual questions. I was left unsure what some variable were actually capturing, especially the variable 'information' and 'time'.

Results:
- Please take n's out of write up of results, it is repetitive to what is found within the tables.
- When reporting significance levels in text, report as p<.001, p<.05, or p<.01 if results are statistically significant.

Discussion
- More discussion could have been included around what could be investigated in the future, and why this would be helpful. For example, some of the other variables that were not currently investigated but may contribute to men's involvement and participation in antenatal services may include individual factors (such as men's motivation and views on masculinity) or system factors (such as whether men found professionals supportive or engaging, or operating hours, professionals understanding men's needs, etc).
- Regarding your discussion about the current sample of men providing physical support to their partners and how this differs from other studies is slightly flawed - women may still participate in work while pregnant, but their partners may provide them with physical support in the home. More detail around the physical support measure/variable could be included in the methods section.

Conclusion:
- Your reasoning that men's involvement in discussion of maternal health care issues implies that most men did not have contact with health care providers is not accurately reflected in your results. Your results highlight that a great deal of men found health care professionals as unfriendly, this likely contributes to men not engaging and discussing issues with the health professional.

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

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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