Reviewer's report


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Reviewer: Sanjay Patel

Reviewer's report:

The authors have asked an important question about the delivery of care in a resource limited setting. An interesting and well written article which articulates a clear message about the impact of organisational and clinician factors in variability.

Minor essential revisions:-

1) Methods- covariate definitions section. " (62%; 180/291) and medical officers (38%; 181/291)" - these numbers do not add up. 35% should be 111 medical officers.

2) Table 1 : Mean no of clinicians across hospital 8.5 - should this not be a whole number?

Discretionary revisions:-

1) Discussion: one of the most striking findings is the low rates of HIV testing in children (10%), despite "government policy is that all children admitted to hospital should be tested for HIV" - possible reasons for this should be discussed by the authors.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests