**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Effect of enhancing audit and feedback on uptake of childhood pneumonia treatment policy in hospitals that are part of a clinical network: a cluster randomized trial

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 29 Jul 2018

**Reviewer:** Kenneth Sherr

**Reviewer’s report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript titled 'Effect of enhancing audit and feedback on uptake of childhood pneumonia treatment policy in Kenyan hospitals that are part of a clinical network: a cluster randomized trial'. This article reports the results of a cluster randomized trial of an enhanced audit and feedback intervention on the implementation of childhood pneumonia diagnosis and treatment in referral hospitals in Kenya. The design compared standard A&F with an enhanced strategy that increased the frequency of feedback, included a more robust and focused set of monitoring indicators, included graphical feedback, included action planning, and also had more frequent contact with pediatric supervisors in the intervention facilities. The trial was well designed and executed, and addresses the need to evaluate alternative approaches to deliver A&F strategies (rather than generating evidence on A&F strategies on their own). Though the study did not find improvements in correct classification and treatment of pediatric pneumonia symptoms in intervention vs. control facilities, there was a significant trend towards improvement, and the article is novel in that it is one of the few reports of A&F strategies from low and middle-income countries. The findings of this research will be of interest to researchers and implementers focused on A&F strategies generally, and practitioners working to improve pediatric clinical care.

The study as described is well conducted, and the article is well conceived, comprehensive and well written. I have a very small number of minor comments on the article, detailed below.

**Minor revisions:**

1. **Introduction:**

-Beyond emphasizing pneumonia diagnosis and treatment protocols, the introduction would be strengthened with further information on the A&F literature.

2. **Methods:**

-The article would be strengthened with a more robust description of the A&F strategy evaluated in the study. Consider the checklist published by Colquhoun and colleagues (https://qualitysafety-bmj-com.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/content/qhc/26/1/54.full.pdf).

3. **Overall:**
- The manuscript has a number of minor grammatical errors, and a thorough editing is needed.

**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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