Reviewer's report

Title: Use of Prophylactic Uterotonics during the Third Stage of Labor: A Survey of Provider Practices in Community Health Facilities in Sierra Leone

Version: 2 Date: 22 June 2015

Reviewer: Marrit Smit

Reviewer's report:

This research provides an interesting insight in the use of uterotonics in Sierra Leone. It reveals that, although the rationale to perform AMTSL has been sufficiently provided, many care providers don’t execute this strategy.

I have some tips to increase the quality of this paper:

line 71: the authors explain that AMTSL consists of (among others) controlled cord traction. This however, would suggest early clamping of the cord. We know that it is preferred to delay clamping for at least one minute (or after the neonate has made the transition into pulmonary oxygenation). It is recommended that you provide a statement of this.


In the results section the authors are not consistent in numbers. Decimals are either named or not (146: 80.0% and 60%). In addition in table 2 the percentages add up to 99.8% or 99.9%, not to 100%). Also the in text percentages differ from table 2 (see below)

You should correct this.

Line 152 should read: The majority of the responders WAS female (instead of were)

Line 153: 20% (in Table 2 20.9%)

Line 155: 77% (in Table 76.9%)

Line 163: EECHN 52%, in Table 53%

Line 167: Providers who administered etc. Is no proper English, please rewrite.

Line 174: Several providers etc: no proper English 'the government free supply' must read: the uterotonic supplplied by the government etc,
Line 182: fear of audits as a driver. I do not understand this sentence, I am intrigued.

line 184: the first sentence is not well written: Barriers to the consistent use of etc.

Line 187: government supply (see line 174)

line 209: you report on a discrepancy on what the leaders report and what is actually done in practice. I can imagine this is due to political or financial reasons (or a lack of knowledge?).

Could it be that the lack of uterotonics is also due to mismanagement of leaders? Did you get any insight in this? And if yes, can you make recommendations?

line 222: can you elaborate on the fact that a large part of uterotonics is not stored in a cold space. Could this be of effect on the effectivity of the oxytocin. Is the effectiveness is lowered (or nil) one could argue that providing oxytocine under these circumstances is discutable. Misoprostol might be more ideal; it can be stored by room temperature and is very inexpensive. Your study does provide some rationale for this. You should elaborate on this in the discussion paragraph.

You provide a list of abbreviations, I prefer abbreviations explained in text.

In Table 2, you should explain the abbreviations. Also 'leadership' (Table 2) is too vague. As a table should be self-explanatory you should choose other terms (or explain in the legend of the table)

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests