

Reviewer's report

Title: Influences on Uptake of Reproductive Health Services in Uganda: Implications for Cervical Cancer Screening

Version: 1 **Date:** 22 February 2007

Reviewer: Jeanette Lim

Reviewer's report:

General

1. An interesting and important paper and contribution to the field. Well-done research.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

2. page 4, para 2, line 1 - feel that authors overstated aim of study as exploring factors explaining low usage of RH services in "Uganda" when in next para "Methods", research is mainly conducted in 1 semi-rural community and 1 hospital (albeit largest and busiest in Uganda). How generalizable can the study and results be stated as being?

3. page 5, para 1, line 7 - participants "were mainly subsistence farmers and were thus representative of the average Ugandan". Feel that representativeness of study participants of average Ugandan seems overstated i.e., other characteristics besides occupation can define population and representativeness e.g., religion, geography, ethnic group, etc. Does Baganda ethnic group make up majority of Ugandan population?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

4. Abstract, conclusions, lin 4 - Word "sengas" used without explanation. Abstract should be able to stand alone.

5. page 3, para 2, line 6 - Mulago hospital discussed here without explanation (though presented later in paper).

6. page 13, para 1, line 4 - "best promise" - qualitative judgemental statement. Suggest rephrasing to state "two options now available ... ", "it remains to be seen what approach is best for each country".

7. page 13, para 1, line 7 - "HPV technologies have been developed and when affordable promise to be the initial screening tools" - reference needed

8. page 13, para 1, line 7 - "In the proposed diagnose and treat strategies ..." - reference needed

9. page 13, para 1, line 8 - "Nurses" instead of "They"

10. page 13, para 3, line 4 - "Men are NOT FULLY TO blame"

11. page 14, para 1, line 7 - " They are targeted to cervical cancer screening and field colposcopes have been developed" - reference needed.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

12. page 6, para 1, line 2 - use of "leader among participants who worked with moderator to guide the interview" is an interesting concept. Consider providing more rationale of why this method was used and references

13. page 12, para 2, line 14 - "concerted effort is needed to inform the population about this cancer" - personal opinion, consider deleting.

14. page 12, para 2, last line - "Fortunately Uganda has had vast experience ... and has moved towards ..." · evidence? citation?

15. page 12, para 2, line 2 - "which was not surprising" - personal opinion, consider deleting.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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