Reviewer’s report

Title: Protocol for the Systematic Review on Inequalities in Access to Postnatal Care Services in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Version: 3 Date: 8 May 2013

Reviewer: Shi Wu Wen

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I have the following comments.

1. The setting: Low and Middle income countries (LMIC) are evolving over time. Some countries that are eligible before (e.g., China) are not eligible now by international agencies such as CIDA. As a result, it is very complicated to define the setting at first place.

2. There are huge within-country variations, e.g., geographic (rural versus urban), ethnic/racial (black/Hispanic/white in the United States, aboriginal versus non-aboriginal in Canada etc) variations etc. Addressing the inequality issue by country-level income may be too simplistic and I am not sure if it is necessary at first place.

3. The language: English, French, and Spanish seem not enough. Portuguese and Chinese should be included at least.

4. A single term of "postnatal care" may again be too simplistic. That may miss a lot of important studies that address a single, important intervention without mentioning the term "postnatal care", e.g., management of postpartum hemorrhage, social support etc.