Reviewer's report

Title: Preconception counselling for the general population initiated by general practitioners in the Netherlands: results of response to the offer of PCC. (ISRCTN53942912).

Version: 6 Date: 15 May 2006

Reviewer: Leo P. P ten Kate

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Title: I don't understand the meaning of results of response to the offer. Response in itself is a result. Moreover this does not capture the pre-offer selection. Suggestion: Ability to reach women contemplating pregnancy
2. Abstract: The passage in the results section about women who became pregnant is rather confusing. Suggestion: Copy the much clearer passage on this subject which is in the result section of the paper.
3 Methods:
- What is meant by temporarily excluded and how do you know that this was temporarily? Or is it an assumption or even possibility?
- When was the questionnaire assessing knowledge sent?
4 Results:
- Does Statistics Netherlands know the level of education of the eligible women?
- The second paragraph is confusing as the first sentence deals with the 5866 women of 2002, while the second sentence without any warning applies to the previous years
5 Discussion:
- What is meant by This study (middle of p 13)? Suggestion: The overall study (Parents to be)
- I can't find the 25% of participants in the study of Henneman et al who had contemplated pregnancy. First, all participants had to contemplate pregnancy as this was the inclusion criterion. Of them 52-63% were planning children within 2 years. Second, of those who were invited to participate 20% had a partner with whom they contemplated to have children.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests