Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of hospital midwives in the Netherlands

Version: 1 Date: 10 September 2010

Reviewer: Alexander Lerchl

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting piece of work indeed. The manuscript is clearly structured and written, the methods are adequate, the results are presented clearly. I have no major concerns, but a number of minor ones:

1. There is no need to give always two last digits (e.g., 26.06%). 26.1% is sufficient (Table 1)

2. Results, 4th paragraph: Explain here what CS stands for (although most of the readers of this Journal know it).

3. "Limitations of the study", second paragraph, 4th sentence. This should be rephrased since the impression may be that _in general_ the percentage of assisted births has decreased which is of course not true.

4. References: I understand that most references are in Dutch. But may be the authors should consider giving the English titles as well (in brackets).

5. Table 4: Some ORs are "odd", e.g., 0.03 (0.03 - 0.03). Please check.

6. Legend of Fig. 3 (see also comment 3): please rephrase ( .. assisted births _involving midwives_) or something in this direction.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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