Reviewer's report

Title: Women's experiences of the first childbirth: development and evaluation of a Swedish questionnaire

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2010

Reviewer: Ellen Hodnett

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper which makes a contribution to our understanding of the factors influencing satisfaction with the childbirth experience. Methods used to evaluate the questionnaire were appropriate. The discussion is thoughtful and points to future directions for the research.

I do have some suggestions for improvement:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

The background does not make a strong case for the need for a new instrument, and it could do so. Reference to the negative skew found in all measures of hospitalized patients’ satisfaction with their experiences would also be useful.

Simply stating in one sentence the methods for derivation of the childbirth domains does not do justice to this critically important first step. I question why care providers were asked for their views, when childbirth satisfaction is inherently subjective, and given that there have been many studies showing that care providers’ views about important domains differ sharply from postpartum women’s views. A group interview with just 12 new mothers seems a shaky foundation on which to base the domains. There were extremely well-done population surveys, including studies in the UK (Green 1990) and Australia (Brown 1989), which should have been cited and used, with indications as to why the current study was needed.

Results: The decision regarding what to name each factor should be justified. I did not understand what “own capacity” meant until I read the Discussion.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

Sampling: It is unclear to me why the sample was restricted to a relatively homogeneous group, i.e. nulliparous, spontaneous labour, healthy pregnancy. Usually in the early development of a scale, one wants a very heterogenous sample.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.