Reviewer's report

Title: Concurrent analysis of choice and control in childbirth

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2011

Reviewer: Jennifer Fenwick

Reviewer's report:

Dear Author/s

I enjoyed reading your well written paper. The topic is an important one and your work adds to the existing literature. I have made a number of minor recommendations. They are made in the spirit of assisting you strengthen your work. Please note that in giving my feedback I have used the word ‘you’ – this refers to the team.

Discretionary Revisions
• I found reviewing the paper with all the tables at the back of the manuscript a little difficult. It may be that when the tables are inserted close to the text they refer to then, this will not be an issue. However given the journal is not concerned with word length I’m wondering whether it wouldn’t be better to insert the ‘quotes’ into the text?

Minor Essential Revisions
• There are some referencing inconsistencies that need attention.
• The name of the author should appear before the reference
• Introduction – first sentence – insert ‘an’ before integral
• Introduction – clarify – birth never been safer in ‘resource rich countries’!
• Introduction – paragraph 3 – new page 3 commencing A RCT... Long sentence needs addressing
• Perceiving risk – 3rd paragraph - 2nd sentence - reword… “.... without clinical indication from what they perceived was the trauma of normal birth”. Or the alike.
• Be mindful of your language - ‘for example interview 6’.... Should be something like…. “for example one woman (interview 6)…”

Major Compulsory Revisions

Design
• The paper would be strengthened with a little more attention paid to describing the inclusion criteria for selected papers.
• While I realise that the original study and the data this paper is dererived from has published elsewhere the reader of this particular paper still needs some information, even if only in brief, on the participants whose interview data appear
in this paper. So a brief description of process / participants / recruitment / data collection / analysis etc is required.

Best wishes with this and future work.

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

**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'