Reviewer's report

Title: Concurrent analysis of choice and control in childbirth

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2011

Reviewer: Rosemary Mander

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents interesting material relating to areas, choice and control, which are crucially important to midwifery. The authors draw a wide range of important conclusions from data collected relative to one abnormal and potentially pathological situation ie PROM.

Minor essential revisions

It would be useful to have some discussion of what ‘concurrent analysis’ involves in terms of analytical techniques employed. There should also be some consideration of how the ‘concurrent analysis’ used in this paper differs from the usual and accepted meaning of this term.

The authors should ensure that any questionable statements are properly supported by reference to the literature eg p 9 The use of planned … inductions are increasing

Terminology is occasionally slightly problematical. The terms ‘safe’ and ‘safety’ appear frequently eg p 7, there should be some discussion of what these terms actually mean and whose safety it is which is being considered. Also, terminology such as ‘natural’ and ‘intervention’ (P 10) would benefit from being unpicked.

The English is occasionally slightly odd, suggesting that proof reading could have been more effective eg p 3. “Women who choose home birth option often do so …”

Table 4 the full reference is needed for Interview 2 (37)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

declare that I have no competing interests