Reviewer's report

**Title:** Contradictions and conflict A meta-ethnographic study of migrant women's experiences of breastfeeding in a new country

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 19 October 2012

**Reviewer:** Kath Ryan

**Reviewer's report:**

This work is very timely as more and more women migrate and find themselves entering parenthood without the support of their extended family. The overarching theme of contradiction and conflict is not unique to breastfeeding in a new country and nor are the subthemes. These issues are experienced by all women, even when they are breastfeeding within their own culture.

1. The paper is well written and very readable in spite of many typographical and grammatical errors and inconsistencies which need to be corrected before publication.

2. The search period for articles is stated as 2000 -May 2012. It would be more accurate to state it as Jan 2000-May 2012.

3. The pages are not numbered so it is hard to comment but in the Search Strategy section there is an asterisk on the word 'ethnic' in the first paragraph which is not followed through anywhere.

4. The reason for doing this particular meta-ethnographic synthesis is not made explicit. What is the point? What does it tell us that we don’t already know? Is it to identify issues that interfere with breastfeeding initiation or duration; is it to identify means of intervention; is it to generate theory or higher order interpretations; or is it to inform policy and/or practice? Please include, in the introduction, a clearer statement (or possibly a research question) about why this particular meta-ethnography was necessary and what it was set up to achieve. You do state that you wish to increase health professionals’ knowledge but there are no suggestions about how this might be achieved. If this was your sole purpose, then it needs to be carried through more strongly to the discussion and conclusion.

5. The methods section, especially the description of how the analysis was done is a bit light. Could you please include some examples of the original metaphorical statements (and their attached issues) and then examples of how these were synthesised with subsequent papers and then eventually collapsed into your themes?

6. The strength of the paper lies in the identification of areas of importance to migrant women that need further exploration and explanation, something not possible in meta-ethnography. These need to be explicitly highlighted, for example, the rare reporting of pain, the visibility and affordability of infant formula, inaccurate understandings of breastfeeding practice including the
importance of colostrum, traditional post-partum practices, management of early return to work, health professionals’ attitudes towards migrant women’s breastfeeding ability, discomfort about breastfeeding in front of others and in public, the role/interference of the mother-in-law, duties to the extended family... Please include a paragraph about further research that is required to unpack the issues identified in the paper.

7. New information is included in the discussion about health professionals and feeling safe in hospital. This needs to be addressed in the findings first - even if it is mention of the surprising lack of information about this topic.

8. The last sentence of the conclusion is weak. I suggest adding a whole paragraph about what could be done by health professionals (since this is how you set up this paper) to support migrant women in a new country.

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

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests