Reviewer's report

**Title:** Father for the first time - development and validation of a questionnaire to assess fathers' experiences of childbirth. (FTFQ)

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Caroline Homer

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper.

The paper describes a study undertaken to validate a questionnaire to assess fathers’ experiences of childbirth. The paper is clear and describes the process of validation well. It will be a useful addition to the literature – both in terms of a new instrument and in the methodology used.

I recommend publication after a few minor corrections are attended.

Were the experienced midwives who undertook the focus group to initially develop the questionnaire men (and/or fathers) or women? I presume they were women. I find it interesting that non-fathers were utilised to collect this initial data for the questionnaire as it would seem that this was then not from the perspective of fathers but from what a professional group believed. While the issues raised may well be the same, this needs some discussion and commentary in the paper.

I would prefer to see the phrase ‘to give birth’ used rather than ‘delivery’. Most contemporary writings now use the word birth.

Some of the grammar and syntax needs attention. For example, ‘totally, should be replaced with ‘in total’.

**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests