Reviewer’s report

Title: Can father inclusive practice reduce paternal postnatal anxiety?

Version: 3 Date: 24 February 2011

Reviewer: Lori Keyser-Marcus

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions
• Provide more information about intervention, particularly what is “usual” class and what is novel to the intervention.
• Paragraph 3: first sentence makes it sound like both depression and anxiety scores were significantly different. It would be most clear to deal with all of the anxiety results first, then move to depression results.
• Briefly comment on the study aim (to increase breastfeeding), even if only to say it is addressed in another paper.

Minor Essential Revisions
• Spell out EPDS acronym at first use (bottom of page 3)
• Was there any negative feedback from participants? What proportion of participants provided positive feedback?
• Were the participants who were lost to followup different in any way from the completers?
• Were the groups comparable in anxiety scores at baseline?
• Move limitations to discussion section.
• What are suggestions for future research?
• Any comments on why the intervention was not successful?
• Discuss how large sample size gives enough power to find marginally significant results, and how this ties in with clinical significance of findings.
• See submission guideline for proper table preparation, including titles. Statistically significant results should be starred, with a notation describing the significance level.
• Title should include study design. See submission guidelines.
• Results report only improve/unimproved. This is not defined in the text- are we to assume that any decrease in score, even 1 pt, is “improvement”. What then, is the magnitude of improvement in anxiety scores, and how should we interpret this clinically?
• Did the fathers in the depression group “improve 12.8%” as stated in the text, or did 12.8% of the fathers improve? The current wording sounds like a reflection of a change in score rather than a count of men who improved.
Major Compulsory Revisions

• Manuscript needs an abstract. See submission guidelines.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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