Reviewer's report

**Title:** Women with disability: the experience of maternity care during pregnancy, labour and birth and the postnatal period

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 6 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Julie Jomeen

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well written paper that addresses an important issue for maternity care. The background feels somewhat limited, however, I feel this accurately reflects the dearth of research undertaken within this field and as such highlights the value of this paper, in raising the issue. The methods are well described and the data is presented in a readable manner. I have no real issues with the paper in its current format other than the few thoughts below.

Discretionary Revisions

Pg 20 - the last sentence in the first paragraph of that page, does it either need to say confounding variables or confounders?

I realise the authors are constrained by word count but would have liked to have seen more discussion about why staff might not feel equipped to provide support, good communication etc to disables women - this seems to be particularly pertinent for the women with MH and may relate to midwives anxieties about dealing with women with MH, which has been documented previously.

I did also wonder if there is a slightly boarder discussion to be had about expectations of maternity care from women who are in regular contact with other NHS services, which will have a philosophically different approach to care.

The issue of partner support may also be an interesting one to tease out as these women's desires for partner (who also may be a main carer in terms of their disability) support may be naturally higher or may reflect care that they feel is not entirely meeting their needs despite higher levels of input from maternity services.

It may be that only the further work you suggest is able to tease out some of those issues.

**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:**
No competing interests