Reviewer’s report

Title: Surveillance during pregnancy: Methods and Response Rates from a hospital based pilot study of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System in Ireland

Version: 1 Date: 2 August 2013

Reviewer: Van Tong

Reviewer’s report:

This study explored the feasibility and acceptability of a modified PRAMS methodology in Ireland. PRAMS monitors trends in maternal behaviors and experiences around the time of pregnancy.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The authors addressed feasibility through presenting response rates and item completeness. However, they do not adequately address acceptability of the methodology, as there were no questions asked to women or study staff regarding the acceptability of the questionnaire or survey items. In addition, the authors compare the study data collected with other data sources, possibly assessing the validity of the sampling methodology and generalizeability of the data. The authors need to justify the importance of this information and modify study objectives accordingly.
2. It is not clear from the methods whether statistical tests were conducted to assess difference between characteristics, such as those between respondents and non-respondents. This should be added to text and included as footnotes in the all relevant tables.

Discretionary Revisions
3. P10. 65% response rate related to the publication of weighted data and is not a threshold for stopping data collection, which needs to be clarified.
4. Table 1. Is it possible to examine distribution of low birth weight, rather than mean?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'