Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Experience of childbirth in first-time mothers of advanced age - a Norwegian population-based study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 16 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Jane Sandall

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an important question regarding the experiences of women who are older and the paper is well written. The data has some limitations which are outlined by the authors but this is outweighed by the benefits. The methods are appropriate and well described and the tile is accurate.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- Clarify use of term nulliparous or primiparous and maintain consistency throughout the paper.
- Provide a stronger rationale for comparator groups. For example why not include women from 18 onwards and why use 32 years as a cut off for older age. More empirical and theoretical rationale is required for these limited cut offs. The age of 32 would be regarded as not older, and 25 too old for healthy childbearing women.
- Provide details of ethical and governance approvals particularly around linking data between cohort study and medical birth register.
- Line 160 Clarify what variables were adjusted for in the text.
- Table 3 Add what variables have been adjusted for in a table footnote.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'