Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors affecting the use of prenatal care by non-western women in industrialized western countries: a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Mrs Crow,

We should be grateful if you would consider the enclosed manuscript entitled *Factors affecting the use of prenatal care by non-western women in industrialized western countries: a systematic review* in *BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth*.

This manuscript describes a systematic review that aimed to identify and summarize all reported factors affecting non-western women’s use of prenatal care (both medical care and prenatal classes) in industrialized western countries with universal insurance coverage. Our study revealed that a variety of factors at the individual and health service levels affect non-western women’s use of prenatal care. Our results are in line with a review by Heaman *et al.* who focused on first generation migrant women, but in addition we found several other factors affecting non-western women’s prenatal care utilization.

Because of its focus on pregnancy and childbirth and the wide global audience, we would like to publish our manuscript in *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. The material in this manuscript has not been published, nor is it being considered for publication elsewhere while acceptance by this journal is under consideration. Some results of this manuscript were presented orally at the 4th European Public Health Conference in Denmark (November 2011) and 4th Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Europe in Italy (June 2012).

All the authors of this research paper have made a substantial contribution to the screening of articles, data extraction and interpretation of the results. The articles were selected by the first author. The manuscript was written by the first author and critically revised by the other authors. All authors have read the final manuscript and agree with its submission.

Based on the recommendation of the editorial office, we have included the PRISMA 2009 checklist as an additional file. As we have conducted a narrative systematic review, several checklist items were not applicable. Nevertheless, we tried to complete the checklist as much as possible.

We are looking forward to receiving your decision on our manuscript.

Sincerely,

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