Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2013

Reviewer: Edwin van Teijlingen

Reviewer's report:

This systematic review is a good addition to the current evidence-base, it highlights reasons that stop women from ‘poor’ migrant populations (non-western women) living in high-income countries from accessing antenatal care.

Interesting to see the link made to the conceptual framework suggested by Foets, seems useful addition to the paper.

Nice to the use of mixed-methods approach in a systematic review very useful, although methodologically the qualitative methods findings are very much presented in a quantitative manner, not a problem but perhaps worth a sentence or so in the Discussion.

The Methods section is very thorough. I would not publish full search terms as part of the paper, but either put them as separate webpage for future researchers to use or simple say a the full list of search terms is available from the first author (or last author).

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors refer to the earlier work of Gagnon et al. as well as Heaman et al. I wonder if there is perhaps there is value in the Discussion to also refer to the sys review of access to prenatal care in developing countries by Simkhada et al. The latter may shed some light of cultural factors which especially affect first generation migrant women in western societies, i.e. attitudes and expectation women (and their families) may have brought with them from their country of birth. Especially if women have migrated as part of extended families and, for example, the older generation of mother-in-laws is living with the pregnant migrant woman in, say, the Netherlands, Australia or Sweden. The mother-in-laws may (a) influence the pregnant woman’s notion of antenatal care as well as (b) promote or obstruct her maternity care seeking in the host country.

Typos/ grammar

The term ‘antenatal care’ is not mentioned until page 15 of the paper. I would like to see a short sentence early on stating something like: prenatal care is usually called ‘antenatal care’ in countries where proper English is spoken, in whilst in American English ‘ante-partum care’ is also common.

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“Information to Feijen-de Jong’s review…” should read: “Information to the review
by Feijen-de Jong and colleagues …"


**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'