Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of Prenatal Care Questionnaire: Instrument development and testing

Version: 1 Date: 4 October 2013

Reviewer: Katrien Beeckman

Reviewer's report:

this is an interesting piece of work, tool development especially with regard to received quality of antenatal care remains an important challenge and the authors carried out an very detailed study

Major compulsory revisions
- a 46 items survey is rather long, how much time does it take to complete? isn't this too long for use in practice- no reflection is made about the easiness of use
- is it possible to use parts of the tool, subscales separately eg. information sharing (factor 1) and availability (factor 5)? this is not clearly stated
- what if the women wants to answer: not applicable (eg women is not depressed at all)? how does this affect the results, can one question be left open?
- it is not very clear what was evaluated in the 15 guidelines and why
- the interpretation of the results of the questionnaire remain rather difficult, what is good quality? overall score of 3/5? at no point a reflection on this subject is made

Minor Essential Revisions
- tabel 2: missings are not well indicated: in phase three I do not count 422 answers eg marital status etc
- can you clarify on what basis following questions were included as they might not be relevant globally (factor 2):
  I was linked to programs in the community that were helpful to me
  I was given adequate information about depression in pregnancy
  and as the goal was to create a tool that is applicable across borders, shouldn't it be more relevant to only include questions that are globally applicable?

I have the feeling that the validation process occurred very well, however I'm not an expert in this field and for example for me it unclear what the corrected Item-total subscale correlation presents...

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'