Reviewer's report

Title: Mothers' experience of their contact with their stillborn infant: An interpretative phenomenological analysis.

Version: 2
Date: 7 March 2014

Reviewer: Joanne Cacciatore

Reviewer's report:

A thoughtful study of a vulnerable population. I'd like to see more descriptive data on the sample if you have these data. Given the IPA methodology, I appreciated the rigor in triangulation but can you say more about the interviews?

Some of the sentence structures could be improved (i.e. 1st sentence in discussion), and I suggest a read through for redundancy, spacing, syntax, etc) (example: "Mothers expressed feeling proud, and identifying family traits" - for tense, should it not be "expressed" thus "identified"?).

It sounds as if your findings support the idea of assumptive bonding (see http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22410169 ) and you may want to integrate this as it seems quite relevant.

Well done and sensitively written study about a very important matter.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.