Reviewer's report

**Title:** Access and utilisation of maternity care for disabled women who experience domestic abuse: a systematic review

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 May 2014

**Reviewer:** Denise Lawler

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well constructed paper with a clear focus and structure. It presents a summary of the best available literature on the subject matter, which once published, will contribute to the existing literature regarding disabled women, domestic violence and utilization of maternity services. Methodological the review is sound and the actions taken to ensure rigour is clearly articulated. The purpose of the review is clearly stated, addressing four clearly defined questions. The questions were focused and directed the review. The review questions used the acronym PICO. Definitions guiding the review are presented and the rational for using such definitions are provided. The methods used to search, locate and retrieve the most appropriate literature was discussed. Evidently a thorough search was conducted in appropriate databases for the most appropriate literature and other potentially important sources including the bibliographies and references of retrieved articles. The search terms were relevant and clearly outlined. The review includes details of the inclusion and exclusion criteria that implemented when selecting articles for inclusion. The quality and validity of the studies was appropriately assessed using validated tools. Data was synthesized well and presented succinctly addressing the review questions. The discussion and conclusion sections are appropriate and recommendations for future research, policy and practice are made throughout. The tables and figure presented are very helpful and informative.

In summary, a well constructed paper that when published will contribute to the literature regarding the subject matter. I recommend that if minor essential revisions regarding the grey literature were addressed (see below) this paper be published.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

(i) One critique of this paper is that the authors did not search MIDIRS database in addition to the databases identified in the paper. This database includes original papers from a range of different disciplines relating to maternity services and care, and midwifery practice. Additionally there is no discussion on, if and how grey literature was searched, retrieved, reviewed and appraised specifically work conducted in Ireland and New Zealand on accessibility of maternity services for disabled women. While this literature may not consider disabled women and domestic violence it does reflect the other two elements - disabled women and accessed to maternity services. Inclusion of such literature could contribute to
and possibly enhance the discussion section.
(ii) There is a typo error on line 700.

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

**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 I have no competing interests.