Reviewer's report

Title: Birth setting, transfer and maternal sense of control: results from the DELIVER study

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2013

Reviewer: Therese Wiegers

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

The manuscript is interesting and very readable. Only a few issues remain, about the content, the language, and the tables and figure.

Content:
at the bottom of page 3 is stated: 'Therefore, the hypothesis of this study was that women who plan a home birth have lower feelings of control during labour than women who plan a hospital birth.'

Although it may seem superfluous, because you have already said so much about the influence of transfer, I would like you to be very clear about this hypothesis: do you include all women in this hypothesis, whether or not they experienced a transfer? or do you include only the women who experienced a transfer?

If you include all women, then it feels counterintuitive, and I think you should at least relate it to the (high) percentage of transfers. Because, although in your next sentence you explain that women who are transferred might be more disappointed, this need not influence the feelings of control in the group as a whole so much, if it only concerns a few.

Following up on this, I would appreciate it if you clearly stated in your discussion that your hypothesis could not be confirmed.

Language
You changed the word 'deliver' throughout the manuscript, but have overlooked that in two places: the first sentence of the abstract and the third sentence in the Introduction. Or, if you didn't overlook it, but left it there on purpose, it is interesting to know why.

On page 5 a word is missing (one line from the bottom): add the word 'on' after: 5.5 points ...

On page 8 I would advise you to rephrase the sentences about the number of participants, because it is not really clear now. The sentence beginning with: 'Of the remaining women, 3561 started labour ...' I would change into: 'Of the remaining 3561 women, 3479 started labour in midwifery care, for 82 women this could not be defined with confidence.' Then start a new sentence: 'the postpartum questionnaire was not returned by 1301 women and in 66 questionnaires (not women!) the LAS was not filled in completely.'
On page 10, the tenth line from the bottom: I would say 'associated with', not 'associated to'. On the same page, fifth line from the bottom: the sentence starting with: 'Women who were transferred ...' this gives the impression it is a result from your study, but it isn't. Please add that this is based on an earlier study.

Figure and Tables
Table 1: Heading: please change 'at the starting of labour' into 'at the start of labour' or 'at the onset of labour'.
The last line beneath the table stating that values are means and standard deviations does not belong there, since the table provides numbers and percentages.
In figure 1 a word is missing from the second exclusion box: Start of labour in primary care not ..... certain?

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 that I have no competing interests'