Reviewer's report

Title: The HAPPY study (Holistic Approach to Pregnancy and the first Postpartum Year): design of a large prospective cohort study.

Version: 3 Date: 20 August 2014

Reviewer: Ronna L Chan

Reviewer's report:

Comments to Authors:

I sincerely thank you to the authors for the efforts they put forth in responding to each reviewer comment and making appropriate editorial changes to the manuscript. While most of my comments and questions pertaining to the original manuscript have been answered satisfactorily by the authors, I would like to ask the authors to provide additional clarifications to one of my earlier comments, as well as to make minor editorial changes on the sections regarding recruitment and sample size calculation.

Major Compulsory Revisions
The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached.

None

Minor Essential Revisions
The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

(1) Under comment #9, I asked the authors to provide details on how missed clinic visits, non-response for questionnaire assessments, and participant lost-to-follow-up are handled in this study during the data collection phase, and the authors indicated missing data will be addressed using linear mixed analysis (as detailed on page 22). The choice in using linear mixed model analysis is a sound method for addressing these concerns statistically; however, I would like the authors to comment and provide further details whether a study protocol is in place to handle missed visits and non-response during data collection (e.g. follow-up reminder calls from midwives and/or trained study personnel).

(2) Methods/Designs, Recruitment and Sample Size Calculation: In the revised manuscript, the authors provided additional details (page 14, lines 23-24) to indicate that recruitment of study participants was completed in between the submissions of the original manuscript and the revised manuscript. In light of this development, I would like to recommend that the language in Recruitment and Sample Size Calculations sections be modified to reflect work completed. Furthermore, lines 3-4 (page 16) can be omitted and I think it will be of great
interest to the readers to know the total number of women who were recruited and included in the study (instead of saying n\textsuperscript{2500}).

Discretionary Revisions
These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

NONE

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.