Reviewer's report

Title: Pain relief in labour: A qualitative study to determine how to support women to make decisions about pain relief in labour

Version: 2 Date: 17 April 2013

Reviewer: Denis Walsh

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Major compulsory revisions
Generally, many of the references, especially those on pain, are quite dated (prior to 2001) and this undermines the robustness of the paper. I would recommend updating the references for the sections on labour pain by searching some midwifery journals.

The very brief mentions of approaches to labour pain i.e. positive or negative (page 5) glosses over two contrasting paradigms of labour pain i.e. 'pain relief' and 'working with pain' that need much more development. Please elaborate on this.

On page 18, values start being mentioned and then comprise a significant part of the later text. However, there is an inadequate definition/description of what is meant by values (equating them to preference for water and mobilization is superficial as values are more closely related to beliefs/attitudes so this needs rewriting.)

Minor
on page 17 (REF) in the text where there should be an actual reference
on page 18/19, authors start using 'we' in the sense of representing the service/professionals and this is needs changing to the third person
page 19, '‚,’ needs correcting

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'