Reviewer's report

Title: The Mother-Newborn Skin-to-Skin Contact Questionnaire (MSSCQ): development and psychometric evaluation

Version: 1 Date: 27 November 2013

Reviewer: Parvin Rahnama

Reviewer's report:

This was a study on development and psychometric evaluate an instrument for measuring factors influencing mother-newborn skin-to-skin contact (MSSCQ) based on the PRECEDE-PROCEED model and had two phases including qualitative and quantitative. While an interesting topic with potential for publication and future research in this area, there are a few points that should be dealt with:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The Methods and Data Analysis sections should be expanded especially for qualitative phase. More information is needed regarding how items were identified, how codes were assigned (some examples might be useful), how the discussions were conducted, and what questions were asked during the discussions? It is difficult to assess the value of the analysis without such details.

   Content validity and face validity are rather long and perhaps it is better to be shortened.

3. Are the data sound?
   The data are sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   In general yes. However, if the authors could put all items in a table then it might be more convenient. Also I recommend the loading level for selecting items should be addressed in the Methods.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   There is not limitation.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'.