Reviewer's report

Title: Traditional beliefs and practices in the postpartum period in Fujian Province, China: a qualitative study

Version: 3 Date: 29 March 2007

Reviewer: Debra Creedy

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Edit the paper to remove unnecessary words (Eg sometimes it is not necessary to include "the")
2. The ethics committee should be the "human" research ethics committee
3. Clarify the term "grandmother" - I think this usually refers to the mother's mother as opposed to the infant's grandmother.
4. Implications for future practice and research could include further exploration of the knowledge base of health practitioners towards breastfeeding. I was interested in their acceptance of "milk powder" and simplistic rationale given for the harmful effects of honeysuckle. Reference to WHO goals of 6 months exclusive breastfeeding should be highlighted.
5. Table 3 could be further enhanced with specific comments about explanations - for example, instead of "helps" lactating women - the comment could reflect "provides adequate nutritients for lactation"

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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