Reviewer's report

Title: Inadequate prenatal care and its association with adverse pregnancy outcomes: A comparison of indices

Version: 5 Date: 20 February 2008

Reviewer: Arden S Handler

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions: (I am either making a comment or adding verbiage).

1) On bottom p. 4/top of page 5 or on bottom of page 5, some mention should be made of the other two indices..(Kotelchuck and R-Gindex). Otherwise, these are not mentioned until page 7 and 8.

2) p. 10. Using the APNCU, the likelihood of preterm birth and LBW associated with inadequate or no prenatal care was significantly increased by 20% and 30% respectively.

3) Bottom of p. 10.. The Breslow-Day test for the association between R-GINDEX and Lbw.....

4) The discussion of the strength of the relationship between pnc and preterm delivery and lbw strikes me as very superficial. I think more nuance is needed.

Some suggested changes.... There is growing concern that the strength of the relation between PNC and LBW and preterm birth may be far less... (take out "as determined using these indices"....)

PNC has limited ability to impact preterm delivery; however, the evidence suggests that prenatal care does make a difference in term low birthweight.

Change "it" to This lack of association might also explain why efforts to prevent preterm birth and LBW through increased access to PNC have shown little benefit (although there are several alternative explanations as well.)

p.13. However, it is likely that women who do not receive adequate PNC are less likely to receive appropriate treatment....

change "good" to "quality" PNC

change lesser and extra to fewer and greater number of visits than expected

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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 I have no competing interests.