Reviewer’s report

Title: Strategies for Recruiting Hispanic Women into a Prospective Cohort Study of Modifiable Risk Factors for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

Version: 2 Date: 10 September 2009

Reviewer: Rhonda Small

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript clearly describes strategies that were undertaken to ensure appropriate recruitment methods for Hispanic women in a cohort study of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). As the authors note, Hispanic populations are often excluded from health research, even when, as in the case of GDM, the health issue particularly affects them. The manuscript achieves its aim in providing other researchers with helpful information about the sorts of strategies that are needed to ensure successful recruitment of Hispanic women.

Minor Essential Revisions

Please define ‘potential participants’. Are they all prenatal patients at the clinics, or all Hispanic patients?

On page 9 and in Table 1 the category ‘temporarily refused’ is used. This seems not a very useful distinction, given that none of them is included in the total finally enrolled, which seems to suggest that none of them was subsequently re-approached to invite participation. This needs clarification.

It would also be useful to indicate the proportion of ‘approached and eligible’ women who were finally enrolled, not just the proportion of all potential participants.

On page 10, please provide the actual percentages in the second sentence: ie, the % of the women who preferred to speak English; and the % born in the US, given percentages are presented for the other sample characteristics.

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.