Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in use of neonatal CPAP: a population-based study

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Reviewer: Bradley Manktelow

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that quantifies the increasing use of CPAP for neonates in a defined population. The data were obtained from well established and respected routine censuses of neonatal activity in a large population. The paper is generally well written and covers an important topic. The methods were appropriate and clearly described.

I have the following further comments

Major Compulsory Revision:

1) In the Results section it is stated that 6,188 neonates received CPAP alone and hence 682,399 received neither CPAP nor mechanical ventilation. However, in the table these totals are given as 5,326 and 683,261. The correct figures need to appear in both places and the calculated rates checked.

Minor Essential Revision:

1) Background, last sentence of paragraph 1: should be a comma after “…28 weeks”
2) Background, 2nd sentence of final paragraph: should not be a full stop in “treatment,[5]”

Discretionary revision:

1) The aim of the paper was stated clearly and was to “…examine statewide trends in CPAP use.” However, in the paper CPAP use was, in reality, only quantified for those infants who received CPAP but did not at any time receive mechanical ventilation.

It would be of interest to report the total change in the use of CPAP: that is including among those infants who also received some mechanical ventilation. It is likely that CPAP use has also increased in this group of infants and it would be interesting to see this quantified.

In addition, it would be of interest to know the length of CPAP use.

I am unconvinced, therefore, that the paper fully meets its aim and the addition of further details could add greatly to the usefulness and interest of the paper.

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.