Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal health care professionals’ perspectives on the provision and use of antenatal and delivery care: a qualitative study in rural Vietnam

Version: 1 Date: 21 June 2010

Reviewer: Lynn Callister

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript addressing an important topic in an important group: rural Vietnamese childbearing women

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Compulsory Revisions

1. Please change "delivery" throughout the manuscript to "birth" or "childbirth." We need to change our birth language. Women give birth, pizzas are delivered! (Hunter, 2006). Women should be seen as the principal figure actively giving birth rather than passively being delivered by an omnipotent care provider. The same with C-section--it should be Cesarean birth, emphasizing the birth rather than the surgical procedure

2. Please note in the abstract and throughout the manuscript that this is a qualitative descriptive study

3. In the abstract, background section, change "adjusted" to "adapted"

4. In the background section, second paragraph, second sentence, change to "identify the need"

5. Please include as a limitation the fact that the data are six years old

6. Page 7, data analysis: what strategies were employed to ensure the trustworthiness of the data?

7. Page 7, ethical clearance--refers "local authority." Does this refer to the institutional review board? Please clarify

8. Page 8, last paragraph, change "since" to "after"

9. Page 23, acknowledgement: change to Annika Johansson, PhD

9. Page 23, references #1 - write out complete citation and retrieval date

Check the entire reference list for editing--for instance #8 is very confusing and repetitive; reference #18 lacks a year of publication as does #23 (2009?)

10. It would be helpful to update your literature review. There are 2 published prior to 1996, 6 published between 1996-2000, 13 published between 2001-2005, and only 10 published between 2006-2010

11. It would be helpful to create a table with clear clinical implications

For example, consider including the following reference:

Another reference to consider for the discussion section is:
Lim, S.S. et al (2010). India's Janani Suraksha Yojana, a conditional cash transfer program to increase births in health facilities: An impact evaluation. Lancet, 375, 2009-2223. The findings of this study emphasize the need for improved targeting of the poorest women and attention to quality of obstetric care in health facilities.

There is also a great editorial on the continuing invisibility of women and children which would also enrich your discussion of your research:
Horton, R. (2010). The continuing invisibility of women and children. Lancet, 375, 1941-1943. It is so essential that we listen to the voices of women!

A recent article which focuses on rural Ghanian childbearing women may also be of interest:

Discretionary Revisions: None

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