Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns and Determinants of Breastfeeding and Weaning Practices of Emirati Mothers in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2012

Reviewer: Colin Binns

Reviewer's report:

Compulsory
1. In the methods state exactly the type of study. This is a cross sectional study using a convenience sample of mothers with infants aged 0-2 years.


“Almost exclusive breastfeeding” – this term should not be used, but should be included under “predominant breastfeeding”

3. Use more conventional definitions for education eg. don’t state “Mothers ….were moderately educated (53.5%).” Use a more conventional classification such as
   • Eg completed primary school
   • completed high school
   • Completed higher education

4. “primi,” Don’t use unintelligible abbreviations - use the full spelling

5. Give some indication of the validity of the sample. This sample has LBW 14.8% and Males 58.2%. Is this typical of Dubai births?

6. “About three quarters(73%) of the mothers stated that they did not give their infants any fluids except breast milk during their stay at the hospital,” Does this include water? Were they given any fluids by hospital staff?

7. “Although the majority of Emirati mothers, in this study, breastfed their infants, only 25% of them were exclusively breastfed”. Always state at what time when referring to Exclusive Breastfeeding

8. Being a cross sectional study the length of recall varies. To provide some measure of reliability of recall a comparison should be made by grouping into 3 or 4 different lengths of recall and compare basic results eg rate of prelacteal feeds.

9. Statistical analysis is not adequately described. The preferable way of analysis of cross sectional breastfeeding data is by survival analysis using a synthetic
cohort approach.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'