Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between a less gender-stereotypical parenthood and alcohol-related care and death: a registry study of Swedish mothers and fathers

Version: 3 Date: 29 July 2008

Reviewer: Amanda Nicholson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting your second revised paper and for your continuing constructive approach. My comments / concerns have now been addressed and I think the recent changes to the paper – particularly showing results for different groups of participants in Tables 4 & 5 and the addition of Table 3 - make the paper's important message much clearer. My concerns about bias have been addressed by the new version and the individual effects of adjustment and exclusion are now clear.

Major compulsory revisions - none

Minor essential revisions –

1. Results, p 16, second paragraph on outcomes divided into mortality & care
   This sentence is not easy to follow. It would help to state more clearly that the odds ratios are for mortality only and care only and to redefine what the (dichotomous) exposures groups are.

Discretionary -

2. Methods, p 8, paragraph 2, line 3.
   I think “Additionally” makes better sense than “Besides”.
   Line 4-5: ..decisions to work full-time, couples who had ....

3. Stratified results : Results, p 16, bottom paragraph
   This could start with stating that now analysing the combined death / care endpoint. Line 2 – “either” of the sexes – not any!

4. Discussion : main findings: p18 , para 2 .
   Line 4 : I think “Additionally” makes better sense than “Besides”.
   Last line p 19 – not controlling for care / death – this is the endpoint?

5. Table 3
   This table is very helpful but would be even clearer with numbers of subjects added to the top of columns 1,2,4 & 5.

6. The results of stratified analyses suggest that the couples comprising full-time
working mother & father who took paternity leave are the group where the benefit is greatest for men and increased risk greatest for women. This is an interesting finding which could perhaps be noted in the discussion (first paragraph p 24). The message of the paper seems to be that in relation to alcohol-related harm, less gender – stereotypical parenthood, although reducing gender disparity, may not be beneficial for women!

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.