Reviewer's report

Title: The facilitating factors and barriers encountered in the adoption of a humanized birth care approach in a highly specialized university affiliated hospital

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2011

Reviewer: Meredith McIntyre

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents important insights into why women are choosing high tech medical birthing services. Unfortunately these findings are buried in what appears to be a chapter from a PHD thesis containing every finding no matter how incidental of a large mixed methods study.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper needs to be rewritten into a more concise report. The important findings for this paper need to be more clearly presented and explored. The author needs to make sure that this paper is clearly adding to what is already known in the area and what new information is being presented in this paper. The new information should be the focus of the paper.

I suggest revisiting the definition of humanized care for the purposes of this paper removing those aspects that do not directly relate to new information. For example 'mother baby rooming in' involving healthy term babies represents an innovation that is 25 - 30 years old and adds nothing to this paper. Contemporary issues that should be the focus of this paper are the humanizing influences that differ between highly medicalised care and midwifery-led or birth centre care. These include the issues of poor communication associated with multiple caregivers, lack of continuity of carer, the delivery of women centered care. The findings related to women seeking to feel safe (including pain management) and finding safety in a high tech birthing environment are important and need to be the featured as such in this paper. The abstract, findings, discussion and conclusion all need to be revised to achieve a more focused report. The reference list contains too many old references and must be updated to reflect contemporary knowledge and practices.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page 7 (Results section). A space needs to be added between women and 83and also between 95 and (60.5%). Remove the words 'table 1 about here'

Page 10 (section 3.2). Add a space between Prof and 8.

Page 12 (section 4.1.1). Remove the words 'table 2 about here'

Page 26 (section 6.3.2) Add a space between Prof and 8.
Page 31 para 2. remove the 'a'. Finally this research had ...

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.