Reviewer’s report

Title: “If you can’t treat HPV, why test for it?” Women’s attitudes to the changing face of cervical cancer prevention - a focus group study.

Version: Date: 7 January 2014

Reviewer: Nnabuike Chibuike Ngene

Reviewer’s report:

This is a focus group conducted in Ireland aimed to determine the knowledge and attitude of women towards cervical cancer prevention and screening by cervical cytology, HPV oncogenic testing and vaccination. Standardized information on HPV testing, infection and vaccination were provided to the participants during the group session. Thematic analysis was performed and the findings showed that the uptake and success of the new cervical cancer screening will be enhanced if appropriate information and health education are provided to women.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Originality check was done on the appendix. This showed that 93% of the words were similar to those of another author. Ensure that the appendix is presented in a way that does not constitute plagiarism. The authors may consider seeking permission from the original author(s).

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Be consistent with the use of “cervical cancer screening.” The use of “cervical screening” may be misunderstood to be referring to determination of other variables in the cervix, such as cervical length. Alternatively, indicate at the outset that cervical screening means cervical cancer screening.

2. The transcript was not returned/discussed with to the research participants. It is possible that the participants could have made correction(s) thereby improving the quality of the data.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. In the method subsection of the abstract insert “in Ireland” after “primary care” in the sentence: “Fifty nine women, recruited through primary care, participated in ten focus groups.”

2. In the conclusion section of the abstract, insert “that” between “ensure” and “future” in the sentence: “To ensure future cervical cancer prevention strategies..."
will be acceptable to women, sufficient thought will have to be given to information provision and education.”

3. Arrange the key words in alphabetical order, thus: Cervical screening, HPV testing, HPV vaccination, qualitative.

4. In the 6th paragraph of method, place a coma between “…HPV vaccination” and “groups…” in the sentence: “In the discussion on HPV vaccination groups were invited to discuss: attitudes to vaccinations in…”

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

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