Reviewer's report

Title: Preparedness to provide nursing care to women exposed to intimate partner violence: a quantitative study in primary health care in Sweden

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2011

Reviewer: Sylvie Lo Fo Wong

Reviewer's report:

Review report
Preparedness to provide nursing care to women exposed to intimate partner violence: a quantitative study in primary health care.

Comments to improve the manuscript: discretionary revisions
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Part of the method section should be removed to the results section. Tables 7 & 8 should be renamed.
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   There are a number of changes that has to be made
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? No
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   The authors should provide more recent references regarding baseline recognition, effects of training and screening. The studies they refer to are sometimes to old.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? The title does so but is too long.
9. Is the writing acceptable?
   The writing needs improvement, sometimes the meaning of a sentence is not clear because of wrong wording.

Comments per section and paragraph
1. Title
   Should be shortened.
2. Abstract
No comments

3. Introduction

Page 3, 4, 5: Background paragraphs are all too long and should be shortened. Focus especially on nurses preparedness which is the topic of this study. Refer to more recent studies.

Page 4: Effect of education in primary health care is studied and published, authors state that this is not explored, see: Lo Fo Wong ea BJGP 2006; Shefet ea Med teach 2007.

4. Methods

Page 5: Provide more information on the process of developing the questionnaire. How many questions were formulated initially and test among the group of 45?

The demographics questions should not be counted in the questionnaire, they provide background data on the respondents which can be used in the analysis as variables. The main instrument is about nurses preparedness.

Setting and data collection:

Page 6: I assume that 40 PHCC were 'chosen randomly' out of the 174 and not 'randomised'.

Page 6: Remove all text in the section about the response rate to results section. The numbers are not presented clear: 67, 48, 22 questionnaires had been returned with or without comments. How many were never returned? A flowchart will be clear enough.

5. Results

Page 7: Start results section with response rate and demographics of respondents.

Page 8: Present numbers of respondents with percentages in brackets consistently throughout the results section, for clearness.

Page 9: Rename paragraph 'Logistic regression analysis': It is about nurses preparedness relation to age category and knowledge and should not refer to the statistical test. Also be more clear on the meaning of age adjusted odds ratio in the text.

6. Discussion

Page 10: A lot has to be changed in this section. “… and many had different attitudes” is it meant: various attitudes? Distinct attitudes?

One can only state that not identifying abused women leads to delay in appropriate care.

Supporting preparation among nurses is important? Is it meant as: increasing preparedness through training etc.?

The paragraph on preparedness to provide nursing care is too much of an iteration of the results. Discuss the meaning of this finding.
Regarding the effects of guidelines: there are conflicting findings. Guidelines on their own seldom improve willingness and ability. The authors can search for these studies.

Page 11: Remove sentence: Thus the cycle of IPV… The cycle of IPV is never stopped because of identification, only awareness, readiness and action of a victim or perpetrator can do so. Identification by providers can only open the door to these mind states.

Different attitudes: use another term for different.

Page 12: Study limitations. The authors should name their response rate as a strength. Compared to studies most other countries, this can be called a success.

In this section 45 nurses are mentioned, in the methods 48. What is the real number? Are these respondents not among the 48? If this is new information than it should be presented in the results section.

7. Conclusion

Page 13: The shortcomings in the first place lead to inappropriate care for abused women and children.

8. References
As stated before: more recent references should be added.

9. Tables
Rename table 7 & 8. According to text in results.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.