Author's response to reviews

Title: The development and application of a new tool to assess the adequacy of antenatal care based on content and timing of care.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
We would like to thank the reviewers for their feedback and detailed dictionary suggestions to optimize our paper.

We ordered the comments per reviewer. The suggestions are repeated in black and our answer is written underneath, in blue.

**REVIEWER 1:**

**Minor Essential Revisions**

Please check tense. Use past tense. For example under AIM: This study aimed to provide.... content and timing of antenatal care were considered. The tool was then compared with....

We checked our manuscript and used the past tense where appropriate.

**Methods**

Page 7 2nd paragraph last sentence... add ‘an’ effective....

Page 8 1st paragraph – just clarify if fetal aneuploidy screening was advised in ‘some’ or all of the guidelines

Page 8 2nd paragraph – last sentence - This study was

Page 14 1st paragraph 3rd sentence – replace are with were

Page 15 2nd paragraph second last sentence – add an ‘s’ to need

Page 16 1st paragraph – 4th last sentence - Reference needed after the sentence that ends ‘..only advise two ultrasounds’

**Discretionary Revisions**

Page 8 2nd paragraph – consider rewording 1st sentence and using the term ‘inconsistent’ as opposed to ‘did not agree with each other’.

The above mentioned suggestions were all incorporated or changed in the paper.

**REVIEWER 2:**

**ABSTRACT and AIM**

1. The aim of the study as cited in the abstract is:

‘This study aims to provide a first step in developing a more comprehensive tool that considers content and timing of care.’ ...and analysis is noted to have ‘included an examination of similarities and differences in categorization of care episodes between the tool.’.
Results presented in the abstract suggest a primary aim of comparing two instruments, which I know is only part of the aim of your paper and indeed of the work you outline therein. Therefore, you may wish to consider reframing the aim to match the paper title, which feel accurately, and comprehensively, captures the purpose of the paper. The aim could, for example, be ‘...to describe the development and application of a tool to assess the adequacy of the content and timing of care antenatal care.’ If you accept this change, you may wish to modify the title slightly to match this aim.

We agree with this comment and changed the phrasing in the abstract as well as the title in order to remain consistent.

METHODS

I have tracked changes to a number of sentences in the hope that this makes my suggestions easier to follow.

Suggestions 2-6; 8,9 and 11 were followed and changed throughout the manuscript. The answer on question 7 and 10 are written underneath.

2. The tool is than then compared with the currently used APNCU index.

3. This was not an exclusive exhaustive list

4. However, after weighing up the clinical evidence and the European guideline recommendation congruence, we decided to focus on blood pressure (BP), blood screening (BS) and ultrasound screening (US) as valid clinical components for the first iteration of the CTP

5. In the CTP, care trajectories are first assessed against the timing of initiation of care.

6. The number of actions is calculated for each of the three interventions (US, BP, BS) over the whole pregnancy.

7. It is stated that ‘When the time criterion for all three interventions is not fulfilled, the trajectory is defined ‘sufficient’.’ Please just check that you intend to use the word ‘sufficient’ here, as it seems somewhat counter-intuitive.

In order to avoid this counter-intuitive we changed the paragraph on p9 as follows:

For all women that meet the minimum recommended number of interventions, meaning at least 6 BP and 2 BS and 2 US throughout pregnancy and therefore belonging to the ‘sufficient’ group, the timing of the interventions in pregnancy is considered. When the minimum number of actions for each intervention all occurred in the relevant trimesters, a woman is classified to the ‘appropriate’ category. When the time criterion for all three interventions is not fulfilled these women stay in the ‘sufficient’ group.
8. In Brussels, irrespective of the type of health care provider, all women are referred to one of these centres for their ultrasound scan(s).

9. Women were asked to document their ongoing antenatal care by documenting the following for each antenatal visit: place of the visit, person visited, date of the visit, visit scheduled or not, reason for the visit and received interventions during that visit (the list included weighing, measuring blood pressure, urine test, ultrasound, blood screening, vaginal exam, sugar test,...)

10. Consider rewriting the following sentence for increased clarity; ‘Data from the pilot study was used as training set to test the algorithm to construct the CTP tool.’

We removed ‘to construct’ and replaced it with ‘of’ in order to avoid confusion.

DISCUSSION

11. We are aware that antenatal care however encompasses more than these three interventions