Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of primary care midwifery in the Netherlands: design and rationale of a dynamic cohort study (DELIVER)

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2012

Reviewer: Stephanie Brown

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading the additional information in the revised manuscript and congratulate the authors on the range and depth of issues covered in the DELIVER study. There is only one issue I would still like to see dealt with in more detail. This concerns the statistical power of the study for major analyses. This is more complex to assess in studies using cluster design, because of the greater likelihood that study participants in a cluster will be more like each other, leading to loss of precision. I would encourage the authors to consult with a statistician regarding this issue, and recommend that post hoc power calculations assessing study power for assessing differences in primary outcomes taking clustering into account are included in the final manuscript.

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 I have no competing interests