Reviewer's report

Title: Critical views on postpartum care expressed by new mothers

Version: 1 Date: 6 August 2007

Reviewer: Marie Berg

Reviewer's report:

General
A very interesting study about an important topic in the Health care sector of childbirth process using content analysis with both quantitative and qualitative aspects, and describing the different parts of the methodological process in a very good way. The part "Studying negative experiences of health care" is very interesting and informative.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

No major compulsory revisions

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Method, participants
1. Row 9-11. "The background characteristics of the respondents at T1 were compared with those of the total Swedish birth cohort of 1999....". Were the respondents in your study population taken away from this Swedish cohort? If not, please mention this in method as it is not a correctly way of doing epidemiological research.

2. Participants page 6: In total 192 women commented on their postpartum experience; 42 positive statements and 150 with negative statements. Of these 28 with negative statements also had positive statements. Accordingly, the group with positive statements should be 42 + 28 = 70 persons. Now you have decided to put the group with both positive and negative statements in the "negative group". This is misleading and should be further clarified.

Findings
1. Consists of six categories with subcategories presented in Table 2. However there is an inconsistency in the way of formulating the subcategories "Physical environment in general", and Postpartum care in a hotel". All other subcategories explain in which way the category is negative which unfortunately is lacked in the expression of these two subcategories which are more "neutral described". To be
logic in the "expressions of subcategories, please change/add a word clarifying in which way it it negative.

Description of categories and subcategories:
2. The structure of the presentation of the six categories, one by one, could be developed by consequently in the text mention the "proper expression of each subcategory" according to Table 2, and by "pointing out" the subcategories by for example using italic bold letters.

3. According to Table 2 there is a great variation between the different categories concerning how often they have been "described" by the respondants (from 8 to 91). I prefere this to be mentioned in the text of "findings" some where. For example pointing out that the category " attention to mother" was the most "mentioned category, and "the role of the father the less. This "overall description" of the categories could be placed in the beginning of "Findings", subtitle " six categories". A comment on this in "discussion" is valuable.

References
In some places; page 20 and page 22 references are mentioned using year of publication in stead of a number according to the proposed reference system.

Language
First quotation page 13: A Swedish version of the quote is used before the English one.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
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.