Reviewer's report

Title: Imparting carrier status results detected by universal newborn screening for sickle cell and cystic fibrosis in England: a qualitative study of current practice and policy challenges

Version: 2 Date: 27 June 2007

Reviewer: Bradford L Therrell

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
P. 9 Last Sentence - This sentence seems to be missing words... What does it mean to say "...perspectives out with their roles, ..."?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Abstract Background - Omit the word 'new' in describing universal newborn screening for SCD and CF. It is not really new; only now reaching UK.
Abstract Methods - Methods also include some qualitative analysis of the information obtained in the interviews.
Text in general - Use 'screening' as a modifier of tests whenever possible to distinguish that this is what is happening in screening.
P. 4 - 'National guidance' is mentioned without any real definition as to what that entails. A little more description would be helpful. Is the guidance different for SCD and CF?
P. 4 - In 'Resource Constrasts', it might be helpful to note if different methods are used in low resource versus high resource areas, and whether methods actually change if resources change.
P. 5 - 'Local consultation ...' - Could you give examples of stakeholders? It is unclear to me whether or not you are only referring to parents or including health care professionals or others.
P. 8 - 2nd paragraph - Insert 'Respondants felt that' before 'Giving results should...' As written, it reads as perhaps an opinion of the authors. If that is what it is, then make it clearer.
General comment - It might be helpful to suggest future studies regarding assessment of practitioner knowledge, parent knowledge before and after sharing of information and possible other mechanisms of enhancing knowledge - CD, DVD, pamphlets, etc.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.