**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Hospital-based methods for developing evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand: Need for a better way?

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 June 2009

**Reviewer:** M J Irving

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper presents the findings of a qualitative study on guidelines in maternal and neo-natal hospital services in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. Individual or group interviews were conducted with Doctors, nurses and allied health staff. 3 major themes were identified: 1. The value and need for guidelines, 2. The requirements for guidelines and 3. The barriers to development of guidelines. With various sub-themes in each.

This is an interesting study which is of relevance to implementation of guidelines and maternal and neonatal services. The manuscript needs to be revised to present the findings in a clearer manner.

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1. The research aim is not clear and differs in different sections of the paper. Eg Only 1 of the 3 identified themes addresses the aim given in the abstract.

2. There needs to be more details on aspects of guidelines and guideline development in maternal and neonatal hospitals in these countries and reasons why these countries and hospitals were chosen for the research. Is there a national and international body that may write guidelines for the maternal and neonatal field? Are individual hospital expected to write their own guidelines?

3. Needs more details of respondent characteristics - No. of doctors, nurses, allied health from each country and whether rural or metro, gender

4. There is not enough discussion of the results given, possibly separate results and discussion. The discussion section also lacks details of strengths and weaknesses of the study, comparisons to other studies, implications for practice, implications for research and future research.

5. The use of quotes in the conclusion is not recommended.

6. The box of key points needs to be referenced in the body of the text somewhere.

7. The title needs to be more relevant to the text. This paper discusses many aspects such as the value of guidelines and the clinician’s requirements for guidelines that are not represented with this title. Possibly include the clinical
area that the studied guidelines are based.

Minor essential revisions:

8. Provide more details for all quotes. Ie – Senior doctor, Australia, rural, female.

9. Discuss the value of guidelines in the conclusion

10. Suggest separating key points box into 2 boxes (what guidelines do and barriers) and ensure they are referenced in the text.

11. Provide the interview protocol as an appendix. Was the questionnaire piloted? Include some examples of the question domains in the text. Were field notes taken? Was data saturation achieved? And at what point in the project?

12. As Australia is very different economically and culturally to the other included countries it may be useful to separate the results for these 2 groups to a greater extent.

Discretionary revisions

13. A summary of the major themes at the outset of the results section may be helpful.

14. Standardise the use of “” on quotes. Use on all or take them all out.

15. The following reference may be useful for the presentation of qualitative research.


Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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