Reviewer's report

Title: Middle Eastern mothers in Sweden, their experiences of the maternal health service and their partners involvement - focus groups discussions and individual interviews

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2007

Reviewer: Metin Gulmezoglu

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper is well-written although there are occasional grammar and typographic errors. My main criticism is that it is too long. I think it can be shortened without losing the main arguments and especially if some repetitions in the 'results' and 'discussion' sections can be omitted.

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

1. It seems as if some women had their pregnancies in Sweden long time ago (up to 8 years?). As such there may be recall bias and also the currency of the experience may not be as valid. Perhaps the authors should check this.

2. The title can be shortened if the text following the hyphen is omitted. The first sentence implies that it is a qualitative study.

3. It is important that the reasons for refusal to participate are reported. Perhaps it was the language? Also, it seems that most interviews were conducted in Swedish. As such the findings are probably reflections of the more 'adapted' immigrants. It may be easier to claim that communicating in one's own language is not crucial if one has the option now but not perhaps when they do not have the Swedish language competency?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
I think some (or most) of the quoted text can be moved to text boxes or bullet lists and could make the flow of the manuscript text easier?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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.