Reviewer's report

Title: Using a Cesarean Section Classification System based on characteristics of the population as a way of monitoring obstetric practice

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2010

Reviewer: Michael Robson

Reviewer's report:

Dear Sir

I have read the paper with great interest. The principle of the study is excellent but the numbers are small. It is well referenced and the authors are knowledgeable about the classification but their results should be submitted differently in my opinion. If they did that, it would have been useful for the authors to compare their results with other units which they admit is one of the advantages of the system. They will be able to comment on the extraordinary differences in the results in some of the groups. Some of the previous papers they quote use the standard way of presenting the data and I would suggest they use the same method. It would give them far more information as well and an ability to interpret their results more accurately. In addition they should use absolute comparisons of caesarean sections as well not only relative.

I think the authors should be strongly encouraged to try for greater numbers and describe more specifically their changes in practice and in particular groups of women. I am very happy to help them if this was acceptable and happy for them to contact me on my e-mail MRobson@nmh.ie

I enclose a small summary which shows the standard way of presenting the data in the 10 groups

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests