Reviewer's report

Title: Is postpartum depression a homogenous disorder? Time of onset, severity, symptoms and hopelessness in relation to course of depression.

Version: 2  Date: 5 June 2014

Reviewer: Liz Forty

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The authors should clearly define exactly what they mean by "homogenous" in this context, and why they feel that this is an important research question to address- why is this clinically relevant- why do we need to know this?

The authors should highlight more clearly the findings of this study that add to the current literature, compared to those findings that are just confirming what we already know.

The authors have conducted a large number of comparisons and adjustments should be made for multiple testing.

Minor Essential Revisions
The fact that the psychiatrist conducting the clinical interviews was not blind to the mothers depression status should be included as a limitation - in that this could have introduced bias.

The authors should explain why they had a particular focus on "hopelessness" - why did they feel that this particular symptom/element required a particular focus?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.