Reviewer's report

Title: Management of pregnant and postnatal women with pre-existing diabetes or cardiac disease using multi-disciplinary team models of care: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 3 October 2014

Reviewer: Michael P. Carson

Reviewer's report:

This is a useful article with a "negative finding" that highlights a lack of objective evidence supporting collaborative care for women with medical issues during pregnancy. Multidisciplinary meetings are useful in oncology (tumor boards) and noone who's cared for complex pregnant patients would argue against this model, but publication of such an article could promote funding for the development of organized approaches that can be communicated to a broad audience, as well as other research.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions

One Typo: page 10 line 467 they need a bracket "[" before the Kafka reference

Discretionary Revisions

My experience at two high volume obstetric centers with well-trained and motivated clinicians who take the time for multidisciplinary meetings means that the care is likely to be better as the teams plan for complications, communicate those plans widely, and therefore avoid delays. This is true for my colleagues who discuss complex cases on tumor boards. Proving a negative (avoidance of death, injury, or decrease in cost), especially for rare outcomes such as death or concrete long lasting morbidity from cardiac conditions related to a lack of a pre-determined care plan can be impossible. I'd be cautious about using the word "poor" regarding the evidence in their conclusion. I'd avoid a tone implying that the lack of evidence of a concrete monetary positive effect on care means that MDT models aren't worth the effort. The rates of complications at centers with MDTs might be lower, therefore showing a decrease again could be very difficult and/or expensive.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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'