Author's response to reviews

Title: Barriers and facilitators related to use of prenatal care by inner-city women: Perceptions of health care providers

Authors:

Maureen I Heaman (maureen.heaman@umanitoba.ca)
Wendy Sword (sword@mcmaster.ca)
Lawrence Elliott (Lawrence.Elliott@med.umanitoba.ca)
Michael Moffatt (mmoffatt@exchange.hsc.mb.ca)
Michael E Helewa (MHELEWA@sbg.h.sc.mb.ca)
Heather Morris (hmmorris@ualberta.ca)
Patricia Gregory (pgregory@rrc.ca)
Lynda Tjaden (ltjaden@wrha.mb.ca)
Catherine Cook (ccook@wrha.mb.ca)

Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor, BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth:

On behalf of our research team, I am submitting a manuscript entitled, “Barriers and facilitators related to use of prenatal care by inner-city women: Perceptions of health care providers,” to BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth as a research article. We originally submitted this manuscript to BMC Health Services Research, but the editor assessed it as out of scope for their journal and recommended a transfer to BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth: 'Maternity care and sociological aspects of pregnancy and childbirth' Section, which we have done. This manuscript represents original work, has not been published previously, and has not been submitted to any other journal for consideration. All authors have read and agreed to the content of the manuscript.

Socioeconomic disparities in the use of prenatal care (PNC) exist even where care is universally available and publicly funded. Few studies have sought the perspectives of health care providers to understand and address this problem. The purpose of this descriptive qualitative study was to elicit the experiential knowledge of health care providers in inner-city Winnipeg, Canada regarding their perceptions of the barriers and facilitators to PNC for the clients they serve and their suggestions on how PNC services might be improved to reduce disparities in utilization. The findings presented in this manuscript represent the first time in PNC research that the views of Canadian health care providers with respect to prenatal care for inner-city women have been documented. This work was part of a larger, mixed-methods study undertaken from 2007 to 2010 that also included a case-control study and qualitative interviews with pregnant and postpartum inner-city women to inform health policy and practices related to PNC both locally and nationally. The case-control findings related to women’s
assessment of barriers, motivators and facilitators of PNC utilization (N = 608) were recently published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

Please note that Figure 1 is reproduced from: Sword W: A socio-ecological approach to understanding barriers to prenatal care for women of low income. J Adv Nurs 1999, 29: 1170-1177. Dr. Wendy Sword is second author of the manuscript being submitted for review. The Journal of Advanced Nursing is a Wiley journal, and the Wiley journal website, through RightsLink, indicates that permission is not required to reproduce this figure because “As the Author of this content you retain the right to re-use the final version (or parts thereof) in any new publication you are authoring, co-authoring or editing (excluding journal articles) where the re-used material constitutes less than half of the total material in the publication. In such case, any modifications should be accurately noted.”

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript. We look forward to hearing the results of the review.

Sincerely,

Maureen Heaman, RN, PhD