Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying maternal needs following childbirth: A qualitative study among mothers, fathers and professionals

Version: 0 Date: 02 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Karen Benzies

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for engaging in research with women in the year following childbirth.

Please see the following suggestions for improvement of this paper.

The second portion of the title seems to be missing something

Please double-check grammar throughout

Key words could be more descriptive, try to use words used frequently in your abstract and throughout paper

Abstract:

Lines 3, 8: How would you delineate between "psychological discomfort" vs. "psychological distress"?

Background:

Page 4, Line 7: Is not clear from your abstract or this introduction whether your paper is about post-partum depression, maternity blues, or psychological distress. Could clarify by saying something like "throughout this paper, we will focus on postpartum psychological discomfort," or what you have determined your focus is

Inclusion of research questions, interview questions and focus group questions would have been helpful

Methods:

Page 4, Line 41 Figure 1 - is this your research, or research completed elsewhere? The distinction is not clear in text or in the label for the figure
Page 4, Line 47: From descriptions of groups of mothers for interviews it seems that your study may also be focused on depression, and/or major psychological disorders, needs to be clear in the abstract and background.

Inclusion of interview questions/guide would be helpful

Focus group of 2 fathers is small

Results:
Quotes are helpful and interesting, but there are a lot of them.
Maybe some type of figure organizing the Needs would help with structuring the results section, which is very long.

Page 14 Line 43 Comparison between Maternal Needs and Perceptions of Professionals and Fathers is an especially interesting section, could include if you decide to make a figure of themes

Discussion:
More integration of your research findings with the literature is needed here

Conclusion:
Conclusion seems to indicate that the research was more about social reorganization. Still unclear regarding whether the study was about depression as well, as it was not mentioned in the conclusion.

Reference to the "new health reform" should have been introduced earlier in the manuscript.

What are the practical implications for health care professionals, new mothers, and/or fathers? Could be summarized in this section.

The link between meeting women's needs and alleviating psychological distress should be made clearer throughout the manuscript.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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