Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 23 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Lorraine Walker

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors address a very neglected aspect of women's life course. Thus, the topic of this paper has important. My major concern is that there does not seem to be an established guiding methodology: how were the number of interviewees and focus group participants determined? Many studies require "saturation" of thematic material. How was the coding done? Were there multiple coders? How was coding credibility assessed? There are numerous methodological texts and article on how to conduct such research, but it is not clear that any of these were applied in this study. For example, only 2 fathers were interviewed but is unclear what the rationale for this number was. Also, there was no rationale given (methodological basis) for starting some of the focus groups with the word association with "postnatal". Is there an interview method supporting this, or was this something the authors just implemented on their own? It would also be helpful to know if any of the authors were trained in qualitative data analysis.

2. There needs to be a section on study limitations in the Discussion

- Minor Essential Revisions

3. Cite the key studies that relate to the comment on page 4 that: "…very few studies have assessed…"

3. On page 4, where the 4 groups are described, insert the numbers of these groups (e.g., "group 1), so that these can be associated with the data in Table 1.

- Discretionary Revisions

4. Change (on page 4) "several qualitative steps have been undertaken" to "a multi-stage qualitative study was undertaken, which involved individual and focus group interviews of
mothers, and focus interview of health professionals and fathers." [or something along this line.]

5. There are a few obscure terms used in the manuscript that need an author clarification or comment:

Page 9: white blouse, maxi-cosy, food evolution

Page 10: I regretted Africa.

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

No

**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.

Yes

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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