Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing quality indicators for assessing quality of birth centre care: a mixed-methods study

Version: 0 Date: 08 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Deborah Davis

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article. This is a very useful study with implications not only for the Netherlands but Internationally. I have just a few comments to make:

* The author's refer to "determinants" and "quality indicators". Are these the same thing? Some definition is required. It seems that a "determinant" (such as facilities at a birth centre in relation to emergency care) does not describe what would be expected of a birth centre in relation to the necessary facilities. Would this information be provided in a quality indicator? Also some determinants may not translate to a dichotomous indicator (there may be degrees of alignment or compliance). What is the process for developing quality indicators from determinants?

* It would be useful to briefly describe the context of care in a birth centre. It is not clear to an international audience for example whether women experience continuity of care provider from the same midwife who would normally provide care for homebirth or whether it involves some other model of care.

* The rationale for the study is partly in response to the lack of evidence supporting an assumption that Birth Centres provide better quality (see abstract. though compared to what?). It should be noted that establishing the degree to which Birth Centres rate on a list of quality indicators developed only for Birth Centres will only allow the comparison of Birth Centres with other Birth Centres and not with other types of maternity services (eg hospital based).

Congratulations on a nice piece of research. Thank you.

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

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Yes

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