Reviewer’s report

Title: Overcoming Challenges to Treating Tobacco use During Pregnancy - A Qualitative study of Australian General Practitioners Barriers

Version: 0 Date: 14 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Claire Feeley

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review a novel and timely qualitative investigation into GP's attitudes and experiences of advising smoking cessation to pregnant women. Overall, the paper is well written, clear and concise generating useful insights and clear implications of findings. I have some minor comments that are outlined below, which if addressed, I would recommend this paper for publication.

Abstract- clear, well written.

Background- Well written, good context which link to clear aims.

Methods- Requires some information regarding methodology and its rationale for use.

Also needs information about ethics approvals gained.

Also needs some information regarding reflexivity activities to enhance its trustworthiness.

Results-

Theme: Mixed feelings regarding managing smoking during pregnancy -Line 58, sentence 'Participants viewed addressing smoking as an important part of their role, and viewed their relationship with the patient as…' should be a new paragraph as it is a different point.

Theme: Needing better communication skills- The second paragraph is hard to read due to the use of semi-colons, would suggest breaking the section down into separate sentences.

Theme: Potential facilitators for NRT prescription-the first two paragraphs don't appear to relate to 'facilitators'- rather they appear as barriers to NRT prescription. Therefore, this needs moving/amending. In addition, the sentence 'Several felt that not all pregnant women were addicted, smoking due to other reasons such as stress.' - is not clear as to what is meant here.
In addition, I am not convinced that 'facilitators' expresses what the GP's are saying in the next sections. Rather, it reads as what their needs are to overcome their challenges. Facilitators would suggest something that is occurring that helps them to support women to give up smoking, not what they want. It is important information but needs a re-think on the theme and overall title of the paper.

Discussion: Overall written well, connecting to the wider literature with clear implications. Just one point related to the main findings: the following needs shorter sentences, as it is very difficult to follow these points- 'For some GPs, multiple additional challenges are present such as lack of time, patients' previous negative experiences about NRT and related safety concerns, and not receiving feedback from the Quitline; and for participants caring for Aboriginal patients, also the cost of Oral NRT, and the Quitline suitability for Aboriginal smokers.'

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.

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:

Acceptable

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