Author’s response to reviews

Title: Addressing ethnic disparity in antenatal care: a qualitative evaluation of midwives’ experiences with the MAMAACT intervention

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Elizabeth Debney

Thank you very much for the editor comments. We have revised accordingly (see response below) and uploaded a clean manuscript.

We confirm that the picture (figure 1) is our own.

Should you have any further questions or need additional revisions please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of all authors

Kind regards

Helle Johnsen

List of editor comments and author response

1. Please reformat your manuscript, in order to adhere to our submission guidelines: https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines
Response

We have gone through submission guidelines reformatted accordingly, i.e. we have revised headings throughout the paper, written author names in full, started quotations with capital letters, and made adjustments to the reference list. We hope this was what you were pointing at. Furthermore, we have added an affiliation for Cecilie H. Morrison (employment acquired after initial submission).

2. Your study falls within the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)’ definition of a clinical trial: any research study that prospectively assigns human subjects to one or more health related interventions to evaluate the effects on health or biological outcomes. As such, Biomed Central requires that a Trial Registration Number is provided in order for the manuscript to be published.

Although a TRN is usually required prior to the start of the peer-review process, the BMC-series journals does accept retrospectively registered trials. If you have not registered the trial, we therefore request that you do so as soon as possible so that your study can be accepted for publication. All trials must be registered with a WHO approved registry, as listed in the WHO guide: http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/primary/en/.

Response

We have retrospectively registered the feasibility study as a trial at ClinicalTrials.gov, identifier: NCT04261400. This information has been added to the abstract section of the paper.

3. As many abbreviations are used throughout the paper, we ask that you include a list of abbreviations (before the declarations section) for reference and ease of reading. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Response

We have added a list of abbreviations before the declarations section. MAMAECT is not an abbreviation. The project name is spelled with capital letters in all publications.

4. Please include a statement on ethics approval and consent to participate in the “Ethics and consent to participate” section of the Declarations. Please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs) that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate. If you did not need formal ethics approval please confirm that this complies with national guidelines and provide a full reference which supports this. Alternatively, supply a statement that says that a local ethics committee ruled that no formal ethics approval was required in this particular case.

Response
The Danish Data Protection agency is an independent agency:

https://www.datatilsynet.dk/english/

In Denmark, ethics approval is described by law (LBK nr 1083 af 15/09/2017) and not national guidelines. We have provided the full reference to the reference list.

The law can be read at:

https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/r0710.aspx?id=192671

5. In the ethics approval and consent for participation section, please clarify whether consent for participation was written or verbal. If verbal, please clarify why this was and state if this method of consent was approved by the ethics committee.

Response

According to the Danish Data Protection Agency consent to participate in a study can be given verbally, in writing or digitally:

https://www.datatilsynet.dk/media/7924/samtykke.pdf

We have added this information and a reference supporting verbal consent to the ethics approval and consent for participation section. We have also added information on why midwives gave verbal consent.

6. The Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study. Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

- The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]

- The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

- All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].

- The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
• Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

• The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].

Response

We have added the data availability information to this section.

7. Please state in the cover letter whether the picture depicted in figure 1 is your own or taken from another source.

Response

As stated above, this picture is our own.

8. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response

We have uploaded a clean version of the manuscript.