Reviewer’s report

Title: Knowledge, attitudes and peer influences related to pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health among adolescents using maternal health services in Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Version: 1 Date: 06 May 2019

Reviewer: Elsie Breet

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for taking the time to address reviewer comments on the manuscript entitled: "Knowledge, attitudes and peer influences related to pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health among adolescents using maternal health services in Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa".

The manuscript has been much improved but there is still some text that is unclear:

1. Reviewer 1 commented: "3.P.6 indicates participants were excluded if they were identified as having a cognitive impairment. How was this assessed?"

Author response: "Adolescents with first and repeat pregnancies who attended the ante- and postnatal clinics were identified by the nurses and briefly informed about the study. The nursing staff was aware of the inclusion and exclusion criteria, which included the adolescents' cognitive abilities, and they recruited respondents accordingly. Interested respondents were referred to the research assistants stationed in the clinic who then provided them with more details, after which they decided whether to participate voluntarily or not"

After reading the text I am still not sure how the nurses assessed 'cognitive abilities'. Did they receive training? How can the authors be sure that all nurses assessed 'cognitive ability' in the same way?

Given the importance of assessing 'cognitive impairment' in your sample I would have expected that there would be a validated screening tool which the nurses was trained in using to ensure inter-rater reliability. How was this ensured in your study?

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.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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