Reviewer's report

Title: User perspectives on the Swedish Maternal Health Care Register

Version: 3
Date: 1 October 2014

Reviewer: Susan Stapleton

Reviewer's report:

1. The research question for this study is well-defined and has important implications for both clinical maternity care and health care administration.
2. The methodology is appropriate for the question and, for the most part, described clearly and fully.
3. Data appear to be sound and compete, and the methods of analysis appropriate.
4. The tables are clear and information included in the tables is appropriate and add to the readability of the paper.
5. Figure 1 describing age distribution seems unnecessary since this is described in the tables and age may not be the most important difference among the respondents. A more useful figure might be the frequency with which respondents in each group enter data into the registry since this variable likely has a greater impact on their opinions regarding the registry than does their age.
6. This reviewer cannot comment fully upon the references cited as some are not in English.
7. The title and abstract accurately convey the study and the findings.
8. The writing is acceptably clear and appropriate.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The rationale for combining groups B and C into one group for data analysis is unclear to this reviewer. The authors should provide this rationale and explain why combining the two groups does not impact the results in any important way if this is the case.

2. The paper could be strengthened by further discussion of the implications of the results. For example, the authors state in the abstract, “Finally, the data suggest that the MHCR is an underused source for operational planning and quality assessment in local ANC centres.” A discussion of why this may not be optimal and strategies for correcting would be very interesting and would enhance the potential impact of the paper. In addition, the authors’ recommendation on the registry variables, both those that are not useful and their suggestions for additional variables would be interesting to readers.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.