Reviewer’s report

Title: Giving birth in Switzerland: a qualitative study exploring migrant women’s experiences during pregnancy and childbirth in Geneva and Zurich using focus groups

Version: 0 Date: 21 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Marie-CLare Balaam

Reviewer's report:

General comments:

An interesting paper that explores the experiences of migrant women in two specific cities in Switzerland. While these issues of negative experiences and barriers to care for migrant women are widely reported this looks more specifically at the situation in Switzerland where there are particularly high levels of migration. However there are issues that need to be addressed to improve the article that need to be made before it could be published as indicated below. More generally it would be helpful to address more fully the issue of the diversity of the women you include in your study. You acknowledge that migrant women generally are diverse but you do not explore this fully, other than to mention undocumented women, yet your women come from a range of potentially very different backgrounds. Women's experiences are likely to vary based on time in the county, legal status and country of origin but you do not explore this, you cite Balaam et al 2017 but this article explores this issue specifically. This study/article could provide you with an opportunity to explore differences and similarities between 'migrant's women's experiences of maternity care in Switzerland this seems a missed opportunity.

Specific issues to address:

* Methodology is very brief, are there specific issues with working with migrant women, why choose focus groups. Details of data analysis are also very brief and could be expanded. You rely on Higginbotham's paper for your analytic categories but say very little about this and why this is the model that you use.

* Line 151 - you say women's status is in the table, I cannot see this. To outline in more detail the legal/migration status of the women you work with and their length of time in country would enrich your analysis.

* Line 149 - typo 'aving' should be 'having'
* Line 195 it would be helpful to explain what you mean by health literacy here this is the first time that you mention it.

* Line 274 I am not sure why you make the distinction between perceived and real, if a women perceives it surely it is real to her.


* Line 290-304 This section on social support could be re written to be clearer

* The section on communication with health care professionals needs to be rewritten as it is a little repetitive.

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable

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