Reviewer’s report

Title: PRENACEL Partner - Use of Short Message Service (SMS) to encourage male involvement in prenatal care: a cluster randomized trial

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Melania Amorim

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors:

I really appreciated your work, having already followed the previous publication and noted that the study is part of a more ambitious project to implement the use of SMS during prenatal care with assessment of various outcomes. So, I feel comfortable to recommend the publication of the article.

Some minor points that I suggest to be improved:

1. Consider omitting or modifying reference 32, which is not essential, and is a Portuguese book that is difficult to find for readers of this journal.

2. There are several references out of format. Look at the rules of the journal and try to standardize them.

3. About the sample size: I understand that the calculation was made for the original study for other purposes and there is no specific calculation to determine differences between PRENACEL and non-PRENACEL men. I think this needs to be explained as it is a limitation of the study, or explained in a better way. A calculation assuming 37% participation of men in prenatal care is not sufficient to determine the sample size in this type of study.

4. In the Results section you state: "No statistically significant association was found among the sociodemographic 377 variables of the individuals in each group." This was not an objective and it is not necessary to test if baseline characteristics are statistically different in a cluster-randomized trial (randomization is supposed to generate groups with similar characteristics).

5. I think the discussion is good but it is also important to indicate what the study brings again, and I think at least in terms of Brazil this experience was pioneering.

6. Please indicate in the discussion that the limitation of the study is not only the small sample size but the fact that the calculation was not made for the outcomes evaluated in the present study.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal