Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of antenatal education in small classes on obstetric and psycho-social outcomes - a systematic review

Version: 3
Date: 13 December 2014

Reviewer: Caroline Homer

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks you for the opportunity to review this apper again.
I still have two concerns:
The inclusion of models that provided care as well as education (eg Ickovics trial on CenteringPregnancy). I still do not think this is antenatal education per se. The authors state that the heterogeneity of the trails was a problem but adding group antenatal care in adds to this problem. I am still not convinced that they needed to have been included.
Including all trails regardless of risk of bias is still a concern especially as almost all had a high risk of bias. This means that the whole review has a high level of bias and puts into question the validity of the review. Combining poor trials does not make the quality better and this is always a problem with systematic reviews. This is a major concern remaining for me.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I am part of a group currently updating the previous systematic review on antenatal education (Gagnon AJ, Sandall J: Individual or group antenatal education for childbirth or parenthood, or both. Cochrane database of systematic reviews (Online) 2007:CD002869) and I am an author on the Cochrane Review on group antenatal care. Therefore I have a conflict of interest.