Reviewer’s report

Title: Measuring women's experiences of maternity care: protocol for a systematic review of self-report survey instruments

Version: 1 Date: 28 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Doreen Allen Kahangire

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for a well written protocol draft - a few points require clarification to inform a robust review as the study scope appears rather broad

1. Is the population of interest covering all ages i.e. adults only (18yrs and over) or including those under the age of 18 yrs too?

2. The authors indicate that the scope is to cover survey instruments used 'internationally' as per objective 1 - does that include both developed and developing countries or otherwise? Given the use of study results in the Republic Ireland setting, would instruments used in developing countries, if any, be transferable to Ireland?

3. What is the setting of interest relative to where the women seek/sought maternity care from i.e. maternity units, local clinics, private maternity units, etc. as experiences would differ among the women thus the choice of survey instrument.

4. Will aspects of maternity care be considered in the analyses or are only a few specific ones of focus in this review? If so what is the rationale behind the focus on a few aspects of maternity care?

5. Will consideration to variables (sub-group analysis) such as ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, delivery type, etc be assessed within the analysis or interpretation of findings? - perception of experiences may differ and thus, results may not be generalisable to some populations.

6. What is the rationale behind search parameter from 2002? Wouldn't the searches covering the last 10yrs be more relevant to current clinical practice relative to the ever changing healthcare settings?

7. Unclear on how the follow-up of the phone interviews will be undertaken i.e. how will the lead experts/agencies be selected, what criteria they should fulfill, how many will be involved, will their feedback be used to see consensus or otherwise, geographical location of these experts, etc?

8. Ideally, the representatives from lead agencies would need to consent to participate in such research studies however, the possibility of this has not been considered in 'Declaration section under ethical approval and consent to participate'

Level of interest

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