Reviewer’s report

Title: Gestational Obesity Weight management: Implementation of National Guidelines (GLOWING): A pilot cluster randomised controlled trial of a guideline implementation intervention for the management of maternal obesity by midwives

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Reviewer: Elaine Nicholls

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Gestational Obesity Weight management: Implementation of National Guidelines (GLOWING): A pilot cluster randomised controlled trial of a guideline implementation intervention for the management of maternal obesity by midwives

This study reports the protocol for a pilot study to assess whether training midwives to give weight loss advice to obese pregnant women is feasible and acceptable to both midwives and pregnant women.

This is an interesting study, and, having read the protocol, I only have minor comments as detailed below:

1) There are several points in the manuscript where the word "participants" is used, but it is not clear whether it is the midwives or the pregnant women that are being referred to (e.g. Page 2 line 45, Page 11, line 323). This could be clearer in the manuscript.

2) Although it is clear when the protocol is read in full, on just reading the abstract alone, it's unclear why, or how the selection was done to recruit the subset of midwives and pregnant women to the study from all those that had received the intervention. I appreciate that the abstract word count is limited, but it may be helpful to re-word, perhaps by removing the word "plus" as this suggests that it's extra patients over and above those in the study. Out of interest, are the midwives selected to complete the questionnaires different people to those selected for the interview study?

3) On page 10, line 279, should it also say that it's a random subset of midwives that are chosen to provide quantitative as well as qualitative data?

4) Page 10, line 288. Do the pregnant women who completed the baseline questionnaire also complete the follow-up questionnaire. If this isn't the case, what is the justification for using different samples at baseline and follow-up?

5) Page 8 line 226. I'm understanding from this that women can be recruited at any point during their midwifery care e.g. at their first visit to see the midwife early on in pregnancy or after the baby has been born, but to assess their eligibility it's their BMI measure on their first visit to midwifery that is used to define eligibility for the trial and to see if it's >= 30kg/m2? Is
this true? Overall, the description of the method used to recruit the pregnant women could be clearer as it’s hard to follow at which point in time the eligibility criteria are applied….

6) Page 12 line 329. Should the first trial outcome be....."calculated as a percentage of all eligible midwives who were invited to attend the intervention session”?

7) Page 15, line 419. What is meant by a 5-number summary? Could this be explained further?

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