

September 30, 2005

Dr. Dorothy A. Jones
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Dr. Suzanne Bakken
Columbia University

Re: Vaginal or Cesarean Birth? A Translational Research Model for Informed Health Care Decision Making

Dear Guest Editors:

Thank you for your review of our manuscript submission that fits within the scope and presentation of Best Practice Review article for the supplement in Nursing Research. Attached is the revised manuscript with our responses following each of the editor suggestions for improving the manuscript, along with integration of Reviewers' comments as appropriate:

The purpose is clarified under the heading "Purpose" on the Abstract page. We also changed the title of the Paper to better reflect the intent of the model using the term "research translation" rather than "translation research" (more typically refers to presentation of outcomes of systematic studies). Our model instead refers to steps to translating research findings for health professionals and consumers framed within the context of informed health care decision making. We reduced the amount of content on the mode of delivery dilemmas at the beginning of the paper based on the recommendation of Reviewer #1. In doing so, the presentation of how these dilemmas were addressed using the model was moved to the forefront of the beginning of the paper and more space could be allotted in the paper based on other editor and reviewer suggestions.

The model is presented in total as the beginning of the paper and linked to the Figure 1. In this revision, we make clearer that this paper constitutes an overview of the entire model (description of each component) and not only the dissemination component as questioned by each of the Reviewers. To accomplish this better, we took the editor and reviewer suggestions to use each component as the main headings.

We revised the presentation of the actual model (Figure 1) to include a feedback loop from the final evaluation component (translation research) back to the initial problem. In other words, this component of the model refers to potential research methods used to determine the extent of problem resolution; in this case: to what extent was this process successful in changing decision making about mode of delivery to be more collaborative between caregiver and pregnant women, and to what extent are these decisions informed by the best available evidence?

Based on the editorial and reviewer comments, we revised the beginning of the paper with the “Problem” heading at the start. The purpose of the paper is, therefore, clarified and it is stated that each subsequent section (and headings) are guided by the components of the model. In doing so, we attempted to better articulate to the editors and reviewers that this model not only involves dissemination, but an innovative approach by an advocacy organization to take lead in identifying a problem in health care decision making; devising steps to the completion of a well-conducted systematic review of research that can be held to standard levels of scrutiny; and proposing ways to evaluate extent of changes in practices (extent of problem resolution).

In order to accomplish the aforementioned changes, we streamlined the content under “Protocol and Review” as suggested by the editors and changed the heading to be two separate headings based on the specific model components.

We also streamlined the content under the literature evidence for booklet development.

The “Dissemination” section was expanded to provided additional information on the distribution of the booklets including how and to whom.

Proposed translation research methods are briefly described.

A final section under the heading “Implications and Recommendations” was added to the end of the paper with several findings to-date described along with the potential future use of the model by others.

Thank you for consideration of this manuscript for publication in Nursing Research.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda J. Mayberry
Dr. Carol Sakala