

Supplementary appendix Table: Summary of studies used to test line of argument synthesis

Authors, year	Aim	Country (Region)	Resource	Setting	Number of participants	Method	Quality assessment
<i>What health professionals say about the feasibility of interventions to reduce unnecessary interventions in childbirth and increase normal birth</i>							
Binfa (2016)	To explore professionals' perceptions (obstetricians and midwives), as well as consumers' perceptions of this humanised assistance during labour and childbirth	Chile (Americas)	Middle	Rural and urban	40 Midwives and 29 obstetricians	Focus groups	Not assessed
Binfa (2013)	To explore the perception of this humanised attention during labour and delivery by both the professional staff (obstetricians and midwives) and consumers	Chile (Americas)	Middle	Urban	Unclear (6 focus groups and 2 in-depth interviews involving women, health professionals and Directors)	Focus groups and in-depth interviews	Not assessed
Janani (2015)	To explore challenges in implementing the PBP from perspective of midwives and obstetricians that provide maternity care	Iran (Eastern Mediterranean)	Middle	Urban	32 midwives and 6 obstetricians	Focus groups and semi-structured interviews	Not assessed
Kennedy (2016)	To investigate facilitators and barriers to the achievement of primary vaginal birth in first-time mothers in hospital settings	USA (Americas)	High	Urban	18 Registered Nurses, 8 Midwives, 26 Obstetricians, 3 Paediatricians, 6 Anaesthetists	Individual or small group interviews	Not assessed
Darling (2016)	To seek the views of midwives about the usefulness and relevance of the Keeping Birth Normal tool in measuring and supporting practice, and barriers to implementation	UK (European)	High	Urban	9 Midwives	Semi-structured interviews	Not assessed
Kerrigan (2015)	To explore practitioners' experiences of and strategies for providing intrapartum care to obese women to inform the develop of an intervention to promote normal birth	UK (European)	High	Urban	6 Consultant Obstetricians, 2 Consultant Anaesthetists, 16 midwives	Focus groups and individual interviews	Not assessed
Cheyne (2013)	To explore and explain the ways in which the Keeping childbirth Natural and Dynamic (KCND) programme worked or did not work in different maternity care contexts	UK (European)	High	Rural and urban	73 Health Professionals	Semi-structured interviews and focus groups	Not assessed
Hunter (2014, 2010a,2010b)	To explore how the All Wales Clinical Pathway for normal labour was developed and used in real life settings and evaluate its implementation from the perspectives of all key players: midwives, doctors, mothers and midwifery managers	UK (European)	High	Rural and urban	41 midwives, 5 midwifery managers, 6 doctors	Observation, focus groups and interviews	Not assessed
Behruzi (2010)	To explore the Japanese child birthing experience in different birth settings where the humanization of childbirth has been identified among the priority goals of the institutions concerned, and also to explore the obstacles and facilitators encountered in the practice of humanized birth in those centres	Japan (Western Pacific)	High	Urban	44 Health professionals	Semi-structured interviews and focus groups	Not assessed
Kennedy (2013, 2010)	To identify factors that foster or hinder the support of normal birth and elective caesarean delivery	UK (European)	High	Urban	34 clinicians (midwifery, obstetric, anaesthesia)	Interviews and observations	Not assessed

<i>How health professionals perceive women's choice of delivery mode and the feasibility of reducing unnecessary CSs</i>							
Huang (2013)	To determine the population based CS rates in two counties in rural China and explore the factors associated with choice for CS as mode of delivery	China (Western Pacific)	Middle	Rural	n=58 Unclear how many Health Professionals - at least 2 doctors	Focus Groups	Not assessed
Bagheri (2013)	To explore obstetrician's views of what might influence pregnant women's choice of delivery method.	Iran (Eastern Mediterranean)	Middle	Urban	18 physicians	Semi-structured interviews	Not assessed
Weaver (2007)	To examine whether, and in what context, maternal requests for caesarean section are made	UK (European)	High	Rural and urban	29 Obstetricians (consultants and registrars)	Semi-structured Interviews	Not assessed

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