

January 18, 2023

Lian-Sheng Ma
CEO and Founder
World Journal of Psychiatry

Dear Sir,

We have received the reviewer comments regarding our manuscript "Reducing psychiatric illness in the perinatal period: An overview and commentary." We are grateful for the positive feedback as well as for the constructive remarks. We have incorporated all feedback into the manuscript and we feel it is considerably improved. Please see point-by-point responses to reviewer remarks below.

Reviewer 1 (Reviewer Code 03547306)

We are grateful to Reviewer 1 for their positive comment regarding the manuscript.

Reviewer 2 (Reviewer Code 06331556)

We thank Reviewer 2 for their comments regarding the relevance of the paper and the importance of discussing this topic. We are grateful for the constructive feedback and have incorporated changes as follows.

"1- The introduction could better discuss the concept of PPI in the third paragraph."

We agree and have incorporated an expanded discussion of the most common perinatal psychiatric illnesses as well as their presentation in the third paragraph (pg 4-5).

"2- Since universal intervention is the approach adopted for a possible solution, its concept should be better described so that readers can understand its real meaning and scope."

We have expanded the discussion of how the intervention can be delivered and who can deliver it as well as further described the suggested components of the intervention (pg 12-14).

"3- When contextualizing universal intervention, it is not clear whether or not this is a new approach."

We have clarified that this is a novel approach to managing PPI (pg 12).

"4- Being or not a new approach, I understand that it is important to correlate universal screening and universal intervention, bringing point by point their advantages and disadvantages."

On page 17, we have added a section and included a table comparing the two models and noting their advantages and disadvantages.

"5- In the potential impact item, considering that it is a new approach and without clear evidence of benefit, I do not believe it is correct to say that this approach "eliminates" the stigma or "will improve" the results, as there are doubts as to its real benefit."

This is an excellent point. We have changed to language to clarify that these are potential (not certain) benefits (pg 16).

Reviewer 3 (Reviewer Code 04726030)

We thank Reviewer 3 for their kind comments regarding the manuscript's importance, the proposal of an alternate framework for dealing with PPI, and the discussion of the significance and research focus.

Thank you again for the opportunity to publish in the *World Journal of Psychiatry*. It is our sincere belief that the paper is considerably improved thanks to the reviewer comments, and we hope that you will find it acceptable for publication.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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