Reviewer's report

Title: Developing Search Strategies for Clinical Practice Guidelines in SUMSearch and Google Scholar and Assessing their Retrieval Performance

Version: 2 Date: 4 January 2007

Reviewer: Nancy Wilczynski

Reviewer's report:

General

The aim of this study is to provide clinicians with search strategies for efficiently searching for relevant CPGs in SUMSearch and Google Scholar. This is an important area of research that deserves dissemination. The manuscript is well written and the research question is well defined.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Because of the way the reference standard was constructed the authors might consider referring to the diagnostic parameters as relative sensitivity, relative specificity and relative NNR as the values will change dramatically depending on the pool.

On page 3 of the manuscript, top of the page, the author should change “…be used if a fast detection of CPGs…” to “…be used if a less time consuming approach for the detection of CPGs…”

On page 4 of the manuscript, 1st paragraph under the Methods section, the author should define “a limited period of time.”

On page 5 of the manuscript, final sentence, the authors should change the sentence slightly to “The second was one of the nine disease-specific MeSH terms mentioned earlier.”

In the discussion section of the manuscript the author might consider adding that clinicians can always search the National Guidelines Clearinghouse if they are interested in locating guidelines that meet a defined quality filter (the NCG inclusion criteria) and have been published within the previous 5 years.

Table 1, the authors should indicate how the retrievals from Google Scholar were estimated. Also, the column heading for the 4th column should be “Relevant Retrievals CPG term + “back pain”.

Figure 1, the author should change the text slightly in the two “clouds”, the 1st to “3 CPG terms with the highest retrieval:” and the 2nd to “3 CPG terms with the highest relevant retrieval:” Also, there is a typo in the box headed “Google Scholar”, 1st point, “und” should be “and”.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.