Reviewer's report

**Title:** Rapid Progress or Lengthy Process? Electronic Personal Health Records in Mental Health

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Trisha Greenhalgh

**Reviewer's report:**

Great overview. I think the main literature has been captured and made very accessible for the target audience. Minor suggestions only.

I would like to see clearer flagging of the country of origin of some of the papers cited. Something that works in USA may not work in UK etc etc. When we're talking personal electronic health records, we need to know which health system the PEHR is being introduced in.

I think the suggestions for future research are good as far as they go but need more thought. I think one really key question is "what professional and organisational changes are implied by the introduction of the PEHR, and how might these changes be supported?" As you imply, some doctors are not quite ready for PEHRs (or indeed empowerment more generally!). But also, the socio-technical system in which a PEHR is a help rather than a hindrance is going to have to be 'grown around' the PEHR - it won't be 'caused' by its introduction! You might find the systematic review by my team ('Tensions and paradoxes in electronic record research', Milbank Quarterly 2009) useful in thinking about more avenues for further research. That SR was on electronic records and we came up with about 8 suggestions for further research; I think someone could usefully take those suggestions and adapt them for the research agenda on PEHRs. Plus SURELY we need more studies of the patient experience here?

Apart from that, I have no suggestions.

**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 have no competing interests