Reviewer's report

Title: The Development of a Web- and a Print-Based Decision Aid for Prostate Cancer Screening

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Reviewer: Dragan Illic

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the development of two decision aids, one paper based and one a web version, for prostate cancer screening. The authors incorporate a mixed methods approach, utilising data from questionnaires and focus groups, to describe the development of the decision aids. The manuscript is well written and adds to the growing body of literature on this topic, including previous work upon which this study is built.

Major Revisions
This manuscript describes the development of the two decision aids, describing the feasibility studies in developing the materials, and the delivery via print and internet modes. The authors have utilised focus groups, to gather qualitative data and feedback, on the development and implementation of the decision aids. However, no qualitative framework has been discussed on which the focus groups were based. Qualitative data should be housed within an appropriate theory (e.g. grounded theory etc.), with the specific method of analysis explicitly stated.

This manuscript would be strengthened with the following:

1. What qualitative framework was used when conducting the focus groups and analysing the qualitative data? (e.g. grounded theory, thematic analysis, content analysis)

2. Further description on how the focus groups were conducted – for example, were focus groups conducted with the same facilitator, how many authors independently analysed the transcripts, how was the qualitative data interpreted?

3. Qualitative data should be reported in the results section according to the themes that were derived from the transcripts. This approach would further illustrate how each of the focus groups added to the development of the decision aids.

Minor

1. The manuscript would be further strengthened by commenting on the potential limitations associated with the focus groups. For example, is it possible to reach a point of ‘saturation’ when focus groups are conducted with 14 participants (booklet focus groups)? Is conducting two focus groups with clinicians sufficient to gather information rich data on their attitudes and perspectives on the decision
aids (study 1)?

2. A brief outline on how the information in the decision aids was framed e.g. in a positive or negative framework, and what implication this might have on participants’ decision making.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.