Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Melina Gattellari

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this is a thorough account of the researcher's development of the decision aids for men with prostate cancer in preparation for an ongoing randomised controlled trial.

The authors should be congratulated on their considered approach to developing the decision aids they are currently evaluating. While I assume that other researchers also pilot their materials, the results and process of piloting is rarely reported.

While the results in of themselves do not add substantial new material to the existing evidence base, the value in the article lies is that it provides a useful and appropriate template for decision aid development. It also provides insights into the challenges researchers face in developing patient materials.

I recommend that the authors include more detail on how they carried out their focus groups and how they analysed data derived from their focus groups. Did they, for example, use standard qualitative research methods and if so, which ones.

Further, the authors indicate that there are 18 RCTs evaluating decision aids for prostate cancer screening. Is this number based on a systematic review? The authors should indicate how they arrived at this number. Was a systematic review undertaken? If so, I would include the search strategy with Appendix 1.

I question the false negative rate of 2 out of 87 (Figure 3). This seems a little high. It may be important to provide references for these figures when presenting them in the decision aid.

I do not have any other specific recommendations for revising this manuscript.

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.