Reviewer's report

Title: Deficiencies in the transfer and availability of clinical trials evidence: a survey of existing systems and standards

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Reviewer: Tatyana Shamliyan

Reviewer’s report:

The paper presents a tremendous amount of work collecting information about existing standards for drug development and informed decision making in clinical settings. The topic is very important and I would not argue with author’s conclusions that existing clinical research policy does not guarantee valid evidence for unbiased decision making.

However, the presentation of the methods and results is a mixture of very different approaches to describe and evaluate regulatory policy regarding marketing and comparative effectiveness research, compliance with the policy, information systems to collect and analyze the evidence, and various factors influencing decision making in clinical settings.

Since the authors conducted a systematic survey of the existing systems and standards, following PRISMA recommendations would help to appreciate all efforts in collecting and appraising information regarding policy, evidence collection, analysis, and translation to the decision making.

Since the authors evaluated drug information systems and standards and data methods, a clear description of the evaluation criteria would help to identify the deficiencies and areas of improvement in regulatory policy vs. technical requirements for the shared databases.

The manuscript should address problems (if any) in underlined business model for drug approval and marketing process including coverage decision and motivations for most-marketing studies and comparative effectiveness research.

The proposed research directions look very general and relevant only to systematic reviews of the published articles rather than all stages in the process.

The proposed direction regarding policy decisions should be clarified with more details: “Computer supported decision models for policy decision making based on clinical trials”.

Minor issues: the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) repository does not exist anymore.

“For a brief overview of drug information systems that considers the entire drug information life cycle, we refer to [9].” Please describe in details your previous work (ref 9) reviewing drug information systems.
**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.