Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge Management in Health Care: Lessons from the Business Sector

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Reviewer: Sarah Thew

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors intentions and methods are clearly stated - essentially this paper is a literature review considering existing knowledge management studies from the business literature and considering their implications for the healthcare sector. The processes for selecting papers are clearly described and the authors' decision to limit this to English language articles is documented.

2. The review is well organised and usefully broken down into solutions, strategies, facilitators and barriers, and although, given the numbers of papers the authors have reviewed, it's difficult for a survey such as this to be more than a cursory review I think that fits with the authors intent to give an overview of the field.

Major compulsory revisions

3. Whilst the paper would be a useful addition to the literature for someone looking for a review of knowledge management studies in business, unfortunately I'm not convinced that the authors have currently addressed the second half of their question - the implications for the healthcare sector are not made clear. The discussion is very general and just seems to suggest that health practioners might benefit, in some non-specified ways by learning from this existing research. I suggest a couple of additions that would strengthen the papers' intent of providing useful learning for healthcare knowledge management projects.

Firstly, the paper would benefit from the inclusion of a discussion within the introduction of current knowledge management practices in healthcare, and identifying existing gaps and research challenges. Some starting places (with apologies for the UK focus of these suggestions) might be:


Soft networks for bridging the gap between research and practice: illuminative evaluation of CHAIN
Secondly, the discussion would be strengthened by some specific examples of knowledge management challenges in healthcare, linking this back to the learning identified in the review and describing how the learning from this review might be of use. The authors discuss evidence-based medicine and knowledge translation, and observe the difference between the promotion of external information within an organisation vs. knowledge management and the capture and sharing of internal knowledge but it would be useful to the describe some examples of these internal challenges in different contexts (e.g. disparate public health professionals spread across a region sharing analysis expertise; a group of family doctors based at the same practice developing treatment guidelines based on their experiences; sharing positive behaviours and habits around hygiene between hospital staff), and consider how the learning from your literature review might be applied in these contexts. I think, without some additions to make this advice more specific for healthcare the paper doesn’t really live up to its title.

Minor discretionary revision

4. Table 1 is a very helpful summary of all the papers the authors have considered - however it would be even more useful if it were to include the reference numbers of the papers - it’s quite tedious moving back and forth between this table, the numbered list of references and the text.

**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.