Reviewer's report

Title: A 10 year (2000-2010) systematic review of interventions to improve quality of care in hospitals

Version: 3 Date: 8 June 2012

Reviewer: Adrian GK Edwards

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to re-review this paper. The authors have made further clarifications, and I would only suggest a few very minor further issues, as follows:

• “along a quality of care paradigm” – I think you are either in a paradigm, or along a spectrum. Please can this be tidied up? It features in Abstract, and Conclusions so it’s worth getting it right. You probably mean spectrum, from broad to narrow?
• Typo – end of Introduction – you have two main aims.
• “a paucity of hospital based interventions which have been implemented to improve quality of care at the scientific level” – I think you mean, and it should be re-phrased to reflect “rigorous evaluations” (and/or possibly theoretically based design and implementation – which you do discuss) rather than a ‘scientific level’ which is rather vague. This features in Abstract, Discussion and Conclusion, so it’s also worth getting it right.
• Discussion: limitations section: “One of the disadvantages of this search strategy was that studies of heterogeneous design were included which prevented us from undertaking meta-analysis or undertaking formal quality assessment of the study using SQUIRE or GRADE criteria.” – This seems a little odd, as you are now reporting that you have undertaken a (perhaps modified) GRADE appraisal (Fig 2).
• Figures 2 and 3 could be clearer by naming the author / study rather than just the reference citations.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

None