Reviewer's report

**Title:** Structure and governance of health and welfare systems relevant to diabetes self-management: a realist review to facilitate a European Project implemented in six countries

**Version:** 2  
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**Reviewer:** Claus Wendt

**Reviewer's report:**

Structure and governance of health and welfare systems relevant to diabetes self-management

This is a review of quantitative studies of diabetes self-management arrangements in six countries. The authors present five research questions, however they do not provide any information how they arrived at these questions. It is certainly not sufficient to state that “after the background search that gave a feel for the literature … the key themes to explore were guided by the following questions”. They need to exactly explain how they developed the research questions and need to refer to the respective literature.

The same concerns the method used for this study. The authors should lay down exactly how the two-stage research method has been developed and not only inform the reader that they followed the “predefined research protocol of the EU-WISE project”.

The search terms are sufficiently described. However, the authors need to explain in more detail why “self care” had to be specified by either “support” or “management” (but by no other terms) and why it has been important to specify the search by “health care system OR social welfare OR policy OR providers OR government OR skill-mix”.

The analysis (and conclusion) does not directly answer the five research questions presented in the beginning. I would therefore suggest to specify the currently somewhat overlapping research questions and focus more directly on answering the questions.

Furthermore, the authors do not really analyze the “structure and governance of health and welfare systems” in six countries. They may change the title into something like “A review of diabetes self-management arrangements in European countries” and concentrate on self-management concepts in different countries & skip the focus on healthcare systems respectively welfare states.

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

**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests