Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient engagement in Research: A Systematic Review

Version: 3 Date: 11 December 2013

Reviewer: Gro Jamtvedt

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have submitted a revised version of the paper and they have addressed many of the concerns raised by the reviewers. The manuscript has improved significantly.

However there is still need for clarifications if this paper is shall be published as a systematic review.

I suggest the following Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. A total of 142 studies are included. There are 7 RCTs and 8 systematic reviews and the authors have classifies the remaining majority as qualitative studies. However, according to the supplemental table 1 and Figure 2 more than 20 studies are classified as cohort studies, cross sectional, case studies etc. These studies are definitely not qualitative research and should be outlined as such in the text.

2. The aim of the review is now clearly divided into four sub questions. The included studies are not classified according to these questions. How many, and which of the 142 included studies address questions one, question two and so on. Which questions are addressed in the systematic reviews included and which questions are addressed by the RCTs? In the result part the description of findings related to each question should include the number of studies addressing each question. According to the 5S concept systematic reviews should be presented first followed by RCTs and other design.

3. Please include presentation of the included systematic reviews within the questions instead of presentation in a separate paragraph in the result part.

4. In Supplemental table 2: Systematic reviews: please include a column addressing the question or aim of the review. This would also help classifying which question the evidence contributes to.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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