Reviewer’s report

Title: What kind of evidence is it that Evidence-Based Medicine advocates want health care providers and consumers to pay attention to?

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Reviewer: Dr Paddy Phillips

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This paper is an interesting discussion regarding the philosophy of Evidence Based Medicine. It gives an account of the raison d’etre for EBm and the advantages it aims to achieve for all concerned. It also discusses the pitfalls.

One area that might usefully be covered that is avoided is the role that EBM plays in health care rationing. This is not explicitly covered but the fundamentalist view that only truly scientifically funded treatments etc should be paid for is increasingly prominent. Is this valid? If so why? If not why not?

I have only one minor criticism - the table should have >80% not 80%.

Competing interests:

None declared.