Reviewer's report

Title: Identifying research priorities for health care priority setting: A collaborative effort between managers and researchers

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Reviewer: Søren Holm

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting paper that adds significantly to the literature on how and to what extent health care policy makers can be involved in establishing a agenda for future research in the area of priority setting.

The paper is methodologically sound and well written and the "Discussion" section has a reasonable discussion of the problems and limitations of the study.

Compulsory (but minor) revisions

My only issue with this paper is that the authors claim that it adds to the general literature on how (health) research can be prioritized and they quote Dan Callahan for the insight that there has been little "extended debate anywhere in the world" on how best to do this.

But the present paper is not really about that general question, but is focused on a much more specific question, i.e. is it possible to establish a process that can prioritize short and medium term research effort in a particular circumscribed field of research (in this case the small corner of health services research dealing with priority setting).

It is unclear what the relation is between the specific question investigated here and the general question. Can we, for instance infer that because this process has worked fairly well a similar process could be established to prioritize research in the whole field of health services research, or the whole field of medicine? Hardly, so the paper need to be more realistic about its own scope.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests