Reviewer's report

Title: An Evidence-Based Framework to Measure Quality of Allied Health Care

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2014

Reviewer: Andrea Bialocerkowski

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to review this manuscript. The authors address an important timely issue - that is the measurement of quality in allied health. It is a well written paper, with a balanced and well reasoned argument.

Minor Compulsory Revisions

- Please check the numbers of included articles reported in the abstract with the CONSORT diagram. In addition, ensure that all of the numbers reported in the CONSORT diagram add up. I think that primary research findings 396 should be 369

- In results section of the abstract, please further define "outcomes" - suggest using the phrase used in the model developed, i.e. functional and health system outcomes

- The aim of the study needs to be more clearly stated by linking the development of the framework with the systematic review. Suggest, The aim of this study was to distil the literature to conceptualise quality allied health services to develop an evidence-based framework to measure allied health quality. Ensure that the aim of the study is located in introduction rather than the methods section

- In the methodology section state which study designs included in this systematic review - suggest the types of papers that are included in the CONSORT statement. In addition describe the inclusion criteria with respect the content of the papers which were included (i.e. papers which reported on allied health quality measurement concepts, theories and hypothetic frameworks)

- Please provide more information on how the model was built from the data extracted from the search strategy, in the methods section. At present some of this information is located in the results section

Discretionary revisions

- The methods section could be revised to add clarity. Currently the focus is on the realist synthesis, however one could argue that the systematic review of the literature should be the focus. The systematic review of the allied health literature was undertaken and realist synthesis of the extracted data was undertaken to develop the framework.

- Consider reordering the methods section and to write in sentences
- It may be worth explicitly stating in the methods section that data describing the stakeholder perspective was extracted, as this would support the results on discipline focus

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 that I have no competing interests