Reviewer's report

Title: Identifying Quality Improvement intervention publications - A comparison of electronic search strategies

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2010

Reviewer: Carl Patow

Reviewer's report:

The authors examine a vexing problem in quality improvement research: how best to query literature databases to find articles on quality improvement. The approach they use to address the question is clear and well defined. The methods are appropriate and use existing defined sets to gauge the efficiency of the literature searches that are explored. The databases used in the analysis are appropriate and reputable. The analytic technique is appropriate to the question, and provides a guide for further advances in the field. The discussion provides the reader with a brief analysis of the challenges in addressing the question, the barriers presented by existing research methods and a proposal for other authors in the field of quality improvement that may help to mitigate the issue in the future. The presentation is balanced, concise, easy to read and understand. The title and abstract are appropriate. The authors are to be commended for addressing an issue of importance in a clear, thoughtful and perceptive manner.

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 I have no competing interests.