Reviewer's report

Title: Strategies for updating clinical practice guidelines: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2012

Reviewer: Fiona Beyer

Reviewer's report:

I have been asked to review the searching for this systematic review, and my advice for publication is based solely on the methods; other reviewers comments will need to be taken into account for the rest.

Minor essential revisions

Abstract
1. I would recommend stating briefly in the abstract all sources searched (including handsearching, GIN and contacting study authors).
2. List the platform (e.g. OVID), date range of database, and search date for both databases.

Main text – Methods
3. Please state the platform used for MEDLINE.

Additional file 1: search strategy
4. Again, I would recommend stating the platform, date range and search date for both databases.
5. I would suggest adding a note explaining the codes used (e.g. [tw]).

Discretionary revisions
6. The authors have not used MeSH headings in MEDLINE, which I would expect to see in a comprehensive systematic review search. Practice Guidelines as Topic/ would appear to be an appropriate MeSH heading, and using it may capture papers using synonyms for “clinical guideline” or “clinical practice guideline”. The authors may wish to consider investigating the impact of using Practice Guidelines as Topic/ in their search, but unless there are synonyms likely to be used for "guideline", this omission is unlikely to have led to missing papers from the review.

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 that I have no competing interests.