Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of patient involvement in a systematic review and meta-analysis of individual patient data in cervical cancer treatment

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2012

Reviewer: Rebecca Smyth

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to review this manuscript. This is an interesting manuscript which provides insight into patient involvement in a systematic review and meta-analysis. The title provides a clear and accurate description of the manuscript. The manuscript reads well and is easy to follow. The aims and methods are clearly described and the approach seems sound. The results from the questionnaires identified some interesting findings, in particular those relating to survivor issues, and the importance of identifying patient centred outcomes that would not have normally be collected. Both the Discussion and Conclusion are balanced and supported well by the data.

Discretionary Revisions - I have just a couple of points for the authors:

Background – 1st paragraph: I presume the authors are stating that they did not identify any published examples of reporting patient experience in involvement of quantitative meta-analysis. It reads as though there are no SR’s that have patients / public involvement - Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group have many.

I would be interested in knowing a little more about the ‘mixed feelings about participation at the Collaborators Meeting’ as only one positive quote was provided – or is this included in 4.ii?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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