Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic reviews on interventions published in Chinese Journal Titled "Evidence-Based": an evaluation of the quality of reporting

Version: 1 Date: 3 January 2014

Reviewer: Larissa Shamseer

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MAJOR REVISIONS:

METHODS - PRISMA: Determining endorsement status of included journals would add significant value to this study and make it worthwhile to publish. Since the study includes SRs/MAs published over a range of dates, time is an effect modifier (i.e. improvement over time is expected and likely). Whether or not other factors, such as journal endorsement status, potentially influenced reporting quality are important to explore.

RESULTS - MAJOR CHANGE: Whether the quality of SRs/MAs improved post-PRISMA: This entire section was not reported in the methods as an a priori comparison and it's not clear why authors have performed a comparison of #2008 to #2009, since PRISMA was published in July 2009. Furthermore, it should not be reported before the planned comparisons (i.e. stratified analysis), in which authors already state they will compare reports from #2009 to #2010 (i.e. pubtime). Curiously, the findings from the unplanned comparison are significant, was this comparison data-driven? Authors should remove this comparison, or state that it was done post-hoc, whether or not it was conducted based on knowledge of results, and provide rationale for doing it.

MINOR REVISIONS:
- see attached document

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I am employed by Dr. David Moher, co-editor-in-chief of Systematic Reviews