Reviewer’s report

Title: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (PRISMA-P) 2014 Statement

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2014

Reviewer: Fiona Campbell

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions only

This is a well written paper describing a well conducted piece of work. It describes the development of the PRISMA-P tool, giving a sound rationale for the tool, the methods used to develop the tool and the proposed strategy for dissemination of the tool. Just a few comments for consideration by the authors; the section on ‘implementation’ describes some of the challenges of implementing reporting guidelines. Reference is made on line 255 to ‘theoretically-derived interventions which have demonstrated effectiveness in the development of implementation interventions’. You then go on to state that a list of proposed stakeholders have been identified. I am assuming – though it isn’t clearly linked – that this is one of the evidence based interventions you are using to address implementation challenges. I wonder if this section which lists the challenges should precede the section beginning on line 195 which describes the post-publication activities. This would seem to give a more coherent flow to the paper, i.e. the challenges to dissemination, the use of evidence based approaches to dissemination and what these will be for the PRISMA-P. A further consideration is to the wide range of types of reviews now published, for example the publication of rapid reviews and reviews using more qualitative methodologies or reviewing qualitative primary studies. Is there scope for flexibility in the checklist, or should all types of systematic reviews be able to use this checklist? It would be helpful if some reference is made to the variety of methods used in systematic reviews and if the tool transfers to protocols for different ‘types’ of systematic 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.