Reviewer's report

Title: Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Evidence Synthesis: how the PatMed study approached embedding audience responses into the expression of a meta-ethnography

Version: 2 Date: 22 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Jane Noyes

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript. The amendments are acknowledged.

1. The current text reads is as if the eMERGEE guidance and general positions about the inclusion of PPI suggests that PPI input ends at stage 6 (see for example On page 9 L8-12), or that the current PPI model is either co-authorship or advisory. There is an additional perspective which has been shared in previous feedback: 'It is acknowledged that PPI input continues through the expressing the synthesis stage 7 of the report, and included new theory needs to be user friendly in presentation and understandable for PPI audiences, plus any actionable issues or recommendations would need to be crafted with PPIs.' Action required: Please include this additional perspective in the background section and rationale for the work in order to more adequately reflect the different ways in which PPIs currently input into QES and ME reviews and the dissemination of their findings.

2. Noblit has updated his book on meta-ethnography and has bought out a new version in the last 12m. Urrieta and Noblit's edited book focuses on the relation of meta-ethnography and theory with identity theory. It also explores how meta-ethnography has been adapted in health and in education and clarifies some ambiguities in Noblit and Hare's 1988 book. Without looking at the book I'm not sure what is says about expressing the synthesis, but given that the authors rely on Noblit's 1988 version, if not already done so, they may want to check for any new interpretations that inform/support their current manuscript.

3. As per previous feedback - the reference list contains team notes and remains unfinished.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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