Reviewer's report

Title: Defining dimensions of research readiness: a conceptual model for primary care research networks

Version: 2 Date: 7 July 2014

Reviewer: Brian McKinstry

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Changes in font style and colour which need to be addressed at the editorial stage

Discretionary Revisions

This is an interesting and timely document which will be of interest not only to researchers in England as well as other parts of the UK and internationally. This is a good article and the comments that follow are suggested as potential improvements.

While the focus of the article is on England I was disappointed that the section describing the UK Primary Care research setting failed to mention the developments in Scotland and other parts of the UK which have enabled research in the past such as the Scottish Practice Team Information scheme and more recently the SHARE initiative (www.registerforshare.org) which seeks to set up a database of research volunteers. Additionally some of the newer developments in the UK have not been mentioned such as the establishment of the Farr institute (http://www.farrinstitute.org/) which aims to provide a platform for research by linking electronic primary and secondary care health data with other forms of research and routinely collected data and which may eventually overcome some of the barriers posed by lack of research readiness.

I was surprised that the impact of workload on the both the willingness and ability of practices to participate in research was emphasised so little at a time when the UK College of practitioners have been describing the general practice service as close to breaking point. Certainly it is the main reason given for practices choosing not to take part in research in my experience.

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'