Reviewer's report

Title: Identification, description and appraisal of generic PROMs for primary care: a systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 01 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Rebecca Mercieca-Bebber

Reviewer's report:

It was a delight to read such a well-written, well-planned paper. Thank you.

- The authors used previous qualitative work to categorise measures identified in the review (a notable strength of the work). Satisfaction measures are included within the 'Health Empowerment' category. The description of 'Health Empowerment' is very clear in the intro., however no so much in the results. I wonder if you can make clearer the distinction between internal and external aspects of 'Health Empowerment' in the results by categorising the measures within the category accordingly. It is possible for someone to be 'empowered' and 'activated' to manage their own health care, whilst being satisfied or dissatisfied with the services they've been offered by primary health care professionals. Patient-reported Experience measures are also classified separately by Ahmed, Med Care 2012;50: 1060-1070, therefore the additional layer of categorisation would be in line with their approach.

- Further, the "top-down" approach to screening and coding PROMS may have resulted in poor consideration of "modular" self-reported measures (or multiple, short, domain-specific PROMS used together), e.g. Key PROMIS domains assessed together may combine as health status: pain, anxiety, depression, mobility, fatigue, social fn…). I note that PROMIS was excluded.

- Figure 1: supplementary search sources unclear. What other databases were used?

- Figure 2: it would be useful to include a footnote describing some of the more abstract fields of this table (as per the content of Additional File 3, or directing readers to Additional file 3). I feel this is particularly necessary for 'adaptability' and 'psychometric testing'.

- Methods/Figure 2/Additional file 3 -I feel more information is needed on thresholds/criteria for determining the level psychometric testing. Although I'm sure that use and psychometric robustness are correlated, I feel the psychometric development of
the measure should be considered here as well (i.e. in addition to n times PROM has been used/cited), perhaps using the COSMIN checklist (or key aspects of it) as a guide.

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:

Acceptable
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