Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers and facilitators to writing quality items for medical school assessments – a scoping review

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Maggie Bartlett

Reviewer's report:

The topic is of interest to a wide range of medical educators and others.

The paper is generally well written (though very occasionally a little repetitive) and clearly structured.

The search was well-conducted using accepted methods and is clearly explained.

The methods are generally clearly explained. I have questions which concern the selection of the manuscripts for independent review (page 6 lines 31-32); why was this thought to be needed, how were these papers selected and how was it decided how many to include?

The discussion section is thoughtful and included wide consideration of the issues. The statement of the limitations of the work is thorough.

The conclusion is clear and proportionate.

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.

Yes

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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