Reviewer's report

Title: Squaring the circle: a priority-setting method for evidence-based service development, reconciling research with multiple stakeholder views

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2015

Reviewer: Virginia Schmied

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent paper. I also reviewed the other published paper on stage 1a which helped to put this paper in context. Well done a great contribution. The research questions and approach are clearly set out, the results well presented and the limitations outlined.

The overall project is clearly described and linked to other publications and work.

I have only one minor discretionary revisions

As table 2 is the combined list of 20 from stages 1 and 2. Would it be helpful to give a couple examples generated from stage 1 b. similar to the way examples are given for stage 1 a

I also think that as table 2 essentially presents the results from stage one and not stage two that is reported in this paper, it would be better placed as part of the methods section.

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'