Reviewer’s report

Title: Using information and communication technologies to involve patients and the public in health education in rural and remote areas: a scoping review

Version: 2 Date: 07 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Maurice Mars

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to re-review this literature review. Most of the queries have been addressed and some new ones arise.

On page 5, line 9: the authors list the five steps in the Arksey format for a scoping review, the second of which is systematic search of the literature. In lines 20-21 we are told that "Researchers used a systematic search of the literature to enhance the methodological quality of a scoping review." Systematic review of the literature is part of the framework, so how does doing enhance the methodological quality?

The authors have not indicated when the review was undertaken - based on the references it would appear to have been in 2013 or early 2014. The reader needs to know this as they may wish to update the search, as the findings may no longer be relevant.

Page 5, line13: it is still not clear in this sentence that for a paper to be included all four inclusion criteria had to be met eg, "…published in English or French; and included all four key concepts…"

Page 5, line 22: Who determined the relevance of the papers? Do you mean that all papers that met the search criteria were relevant?

Page 5, line 24: how did the two reviewers independently screen the studies? In the Figure this was done based on the Title and Abstract but this is not stated in the text.

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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