Reviewer’s report

Title: Opening Clinical Trial Data: Are The Voluntary Data Sharing Portals Enough?

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2015

Reviewer: Harriet Macmillian

Reviewer’s report:

This commentary addresses an important issue that should be of broad interest to the BMC Medicine audience. I have a few recommendations for revisions. As the authors indicate, this field is evolving, so it would be helpful to include information about when these requests for data were made, including month and year. Detailed information is provided for timelines with respect to the data platform available through the clinicalstudydatarequest.com website, but for the Project Data Sphere database (available through the website, projectdatasphere.org), there is simply a general comment that it was "faster"; it would be important to include similar details about timelines. The authors refer to the Immunology Database and Analysis Portal (ImmPort) as an example of an effective platform, but the authors should here again provide details about the process - what is required to download the data? Similar information should be provided across the three examples about the accessibility and adequacy of data.

Among the recommendations is one to develop "a scheme to increase industry's motivation for data sharing, rewarding companies that make data readily accessible and covering the costs of this process should also be considered". It would be useful to elaborate on how companies would be "rewarded". Reference #6 is incomplete; it should appear as "Institute of Medicine (IOM). 2015. Sharing clinical trial data: Maximizing benefits, minimizing risk. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press." On page 4, line 10, "publicly" is misspelled; on line 24, the phrase should be revised to "…agreed-upon protocol…"

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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