Reviewer’s report

Title: Data management and sharing policy: the first step towards promoting data sharing

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Bartha Knoppers

Reviewer’s report:

◦ You observe that funding and journal requirements are currently the main vehicles for data sharing. Please explain the relationship between these and institutional policies: should institutional policies coexist with the other vehicles, and if so, why is this ideal? Should they supplant the other vehicles, and if so, why are they better? Why is it not enough to simply make the existing vehicles more robust?

◦ Do institutions have sufficient incentives to adopt data sharing policies to make this approach viable, and if so, what are those incentives? The development process sounds resource intensive (you state that prerequisites include in-depth consultations with internal and external stakeholders, extensive literature reviews, etc.), so what, if anything, offsets this?

◦ You say that institutional policies are a "pre-requisite", the "first step", etc., to data-sharing, but data sharing seems to be possible (and occurring) even without such policies. Can you clarify? Is the idea that these policies could fill the gaps that still exist, and that you point to?

◦ Please avoid repeatedly advising the reader to follow best practices without engaging with the content of those best practices (e.g. "in accordance with accepted ethical and quality standards", "meets standards and regulatory requirements", "in compliance with established ethical and scientific quality standards", "be aware of ... how datasets can be stored securely", have "knowledge of available data management tools and softwares", etc. etc.)

◦ Is it really the case that "Every study should have a ... data sharing plan"? I'm not convinced the cited source supports this, and I'm not sure it is true, especially across all fields of study.

◦ Page 3 Line 10: "who to share data with and what processes ..."

◦ P3L15: "... tend not to request data."

◦ P3L19-20: "fear - that their failure to request data access means that data sharing benefits only HIC researchers, and leaves them worse off thereby exacerbating ...

◦ P3L24: "This situation is ethically problematic ..."
P3L53: "aim to improve the treatment ..."

P4L6: "... stakeholders are necessary. Scoping and cataloguing what type ..."

P6L15: NB blanket consent is illegal: please remove

Consider referencing GA4GH framework, policies or tools in the conclusion

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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None.

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None.

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