Reviewer's report

Title: Does the Diabetes Specialist Nursing workforce impact the experiences and outcomes of people with diabetes? A hermeneutic review of the evidence

Version: 0 Date: 14 May 2019

Reviewer: Nicola Carey

Reviewer's report:

An interesting and relevant topic for consideration that will be of interest to broad readership.

The paper is based on a project that was designed to evaluate DISNs funded by Diabetes UK.

The authors have created a strong case to support further understand the role and contribution of DISNs. There are however a number of methodological issues that warrant further consideration.

The review questions are included in the appendix- not clear why and they would be better placed in the main text.

The review is set to focus on in-patient DISNs. However the search terms are broad and not specific enough to identify this set of data. The criteria for inclusion is not clear in terms of what was found, study locations and or decisions around how the 8697 reduced to 545 and then to 45. A PICO table or something similar is therefore required.

The scope of the search is very broad dating back to 1990, and although a rational was provided, it is unclear what if anything this added to the interpretation of the role. Several systematic reviews have been published, including previous work specifically exploring the role of DSNs that could have been used as a reference point.

Dates of search- not provided- need to be added

No reported quality appraisal of included articles or the content source e.g. grey etc. Unclear why some review articles have been included- no rationale provided.

Limitations of the data set in terms of methodological underpinning not mentioned.

Limited details on any study has been provided and no supporting table has been included. This is fundamental to underpinning the article.

Unclear the basis for claims regarding cost effectiveness as only mentioned by 1 paper. Again a table could help map the study specifics in much greater detail to help the reader.
International context and or study findings are absent despite reporting search for studies across the world.

Although authors claim to focus on inpatient DSN papers from the community and general practice are included to substantiate claims of the role- this is somewhat misleading and text needs to be revised accordingly.

Strengths and limitations of the review not included.

Conclusion is vague and non-specific and would benefit from greater clarity of the specifics that have been identified. The evidence in terms of the value the role has is there but needs greater articulation in terms of the UK and further afield.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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