Reviewer’s report

Title: A framework for value-creating learning health systems

Version: 0 Date: 08 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Claudia Grossmann

Reviewer's report:

The authors propose a conceptual framework to guide work towards a learning health system in Quebec Canada. They reviewed existing scientific and grey literature on learning health systems and conducted a number of team meeting and consultations with experts to inform their work. They hope that this framework will contribute to greater international efforts in the pursuit of developing value-creating learning health systems.

The manuscript does a very nice job of summarizing the growing literature around learning health systems, including several existing conceptual frameworks. The authors highlight an important fact that most of this work has been done in the context of the US health care system, and additional efforts will be needed to adapt this to other international systems, especially single payer systems.

While they mention that their framework builds off of existing work, it is not immediately clear what novel contributions or refinements the authors make to those existing frameworks. This could be addressed by the addition of a section or figure that highlights these unique contributions. Additionally, while they identify the need to adapt the concept of a learning health system to single payer systems such as theirs, they do not appear to address this in this manuscript.

I do not recommend accepting the manuscript in its current form as it is unclear what the unique contribution is to the existing literature other than serving as a useful review of the current state of LHS frameworks. Revisions to better highlight the novel components would strengthen the paper especially if they can address the adaptations needed for single payer systems.

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