Reviewer's report

Title: The quality of clinical practice guidelines in traditional medicine in Korea: appraisal using the AGREE II instrument

Version: 1
Date: 27 October 2014

Reviewer: Nicola Robinson

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written and clear paper with a good description of the problem, methods and the research process. This is likely to be the first attempt at exploring the current status of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Korean Medicine. I am happy that the research appears to have been carried out appropriately and that data is genuine. The quality of the manuscript is high in terms of the way it is written and how data is displayed which means that it is transparent and potentially reproducible.

I do however have the following comments.

Minor essential revision
I think the history of CPG’s could be strengthened. Does this paper provide the first appraisal of CPGs? If so the Background could state this. Did CPG development begin in 2008 or were there any earlier developments of guidelines?

Major Compulsory Revisions
If, the first sentence in – Background is a direct quote it needs to be either in parentheses or in Italics with the exact reference attributed to it.

Minor essential revision
The relevance of this paper in relation to conventional medicine and the status internationally may be helpful in order to contextualise this paper for a wider international audience.

Major Compulsory Revisions
I would remove any reference to ‘we’ and rephrase- e.g. in the abstract - We searched --- change to The ---- were searched i.e. write in the third person

Minor essential revision
The conclusion in the abstract could be strengthened particularly the last sentence which is weak.

Major Compulsory Revisions
The inclusion/exclusion criteria is a little unclear – were CPG’s excluded if they had no evidence quoted? This is also reflected in the Results as it is not quite clear why some were excluded.
Major Compulsory Revisions
There are a couple of spelling mistakes - ‘ pervious’ rather than ‘ Previous’ - please carry out a Spell check

Discretionary Revisions
There was a Clinical Guidelines Special issue in the European Journal of Integrative medicine in 2014 and although two of the articles from this are cited – the importance of appraisal is brought out in the editorial which the authors may like to cite.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have taken part in 3 Clinical Guideline meetings at the authors institution during the last 3 years for which my flight was reimbursed