Reviewer's report

Title: "A systematic review of training programmes for recruiters to randomised clinical trials"

Version: 2 Date: 12 June 2015

Reviewer: Janine Dretzke

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This has been much improved in terms of clarity around the methodology. A couple of remaining queries:

1. Search strategies

In the search strategies listed, it doesn't look like there were any relevant MeSH terms, though this is stated in the text. Could you clarify this?

Further, the searches are somewhat out of date. The search probably needs updating, e.g. your own study is not included (Training recruiters to randomized trials to facilitate recruitment and informed consent by exploring patients' treatment preferences. Nicola Mills1*, Jane M Blazeby1, Freddie C Hamdy2, David E Neal3, Bruce Campbell4, Caroline Wilson1, Sangeetha Paramasivan1 and Jenny L Donovan1).

If updating is not feasible, then perhaps it could be acknowledged that there may have been more recent publication, and any known ones could be highlighted, including whether the findings are consistent with your review findings. Alternatively, you could include only better quality studies from an updated search (i.e. RCTs only) and see what they add (if anything).

Table 1. I still find this confusing because the study design and comparators are not stated. Perhaps this could be ordered by study design (so an additional row with RCTs, followed by the three RCTS, then a row with controlled non-randomised etc.-as in Table 2

Minor comment

P17. Should state that the review was reported using PRIISMA guidelines as they are for reporting not conduct (could refer to the Cochrane handbook if that's what was used for methodological guidance).