Reviewer’s report

Title: Key stakeholder perceptions about consent to participate in acute illness research: a rapid, systematic review to inform epi/pandemic research preparedness

Version: 2 Date: 28 August 2015

Reviewer: Virginia Sharpe

Reviewer’s report:

I would not recommend any Major Compulsory Revisions or Minor Essential Revisions. The manuscript is well-written, well-reasoned, and well-prepared. I would recommend one Discretionary Revision which would be to emphasize in the abstract (which was missing from the manuscript) and in the conclusions the important point on page 15 that variance in the views of different stakeholder groups makes diverse representation essential in the development and regulatory evaluation of study proposals. Otherwise, narrow representation will lead to skewed decisions.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests