Author's response to reviews

Title: Quality indicators in continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) care in critically ill patients: protocol for a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editors of Systematic Reviews:

Thank you very much for considering the study entitled, “Quality indicators in continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) care in critically ill patients: protocol for a systematic review,” for publication. This is an important contribution to the literature surrounding CRRT, and in particular it’s delivery and utilization in critically ill patients. While much work has previously been done on different modalities of CRRT, dosing of CRRT and anticoagulation in CRRT for important patient outcomes such as mortality and renal recovery, there still exist significant variations in its practice that have been shown to lead to unfavourable patient outcomes. This systematic review will serve as the first of a two-step process to determine important quality indicators in the delivery and prescription of CRRT for critically ill patients which will lead to the future implementation of these identified quality indicators into the delivery and standardization of all future CRRT starts. This in turn will lead to less variability in the delivery of CRRT and will serve as an important quality improvement and patient safety project to improve patient outcomes.

At this stage we have applied for funding from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) in their Fall Knowledge Synthesis Grant Fall 2014 competition and their decision is pending. The study has also been registered with PROSPERO (CRD42015015530) and is at the preliminary searches stage. It has not been previously reviewed by any other external peer reviewers at this time.

Thank you again for considering the article for publication. I look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

Oleksa Rewa