Reviewer's report

Title: Indicators and measurement tools for health systems integration: A knowledge synthesis protocol

Version: 3
Date: 8 May 2015

Reviewer: Larissa Shamseer

Reviewer's report:

This is a thorough and well-written protocol describing a rigorous and appropriate design to answer the specified research questions.

Addressing the minor points below will enhance clarity of the manuscript.

- For the Delphi survey: what will happen if there is wide dispersion of ratings for a particular indicator or principle and no consensus is reached after 3 rounds? i.e. 50% respondents select 1 or 2 and 50% select 4 or 5?
- For the focus groups: Brazil is a large country, can a region or city be names down as they have been for the Canadian centres (i.e. AB and BC)?
- For the analysis of the focus group interviews: it seems that there will be two independent groups carrying out analysis in Canada and Brazil. Will there be any attempt to train assessors and standardize their analysis/interpretations of the data?
- For the literature search strategy, please include the date limits for each of the listed electronic databases, or if no date limits will be applied, please indicate that. (note that one of the exclusion criteria is pre-1995 literature - will that be used as a limit in the electronic search strategies?)
- Selecting studies: please state which reference management software will be used, if known
- Selecting studies: please indicate if the "pairs of raters" will carry out screening independently (i.e. without knowledge of the others’ selection) (i.e. two raters will screen records/articles independently)
- Appraisal of study quality: again, please indicate if this will be done independently
- Data extraction: who will extract data - single assessor, or dual independent extraction?
- Trial Status: what trial? Perhaps you mean "project status"?